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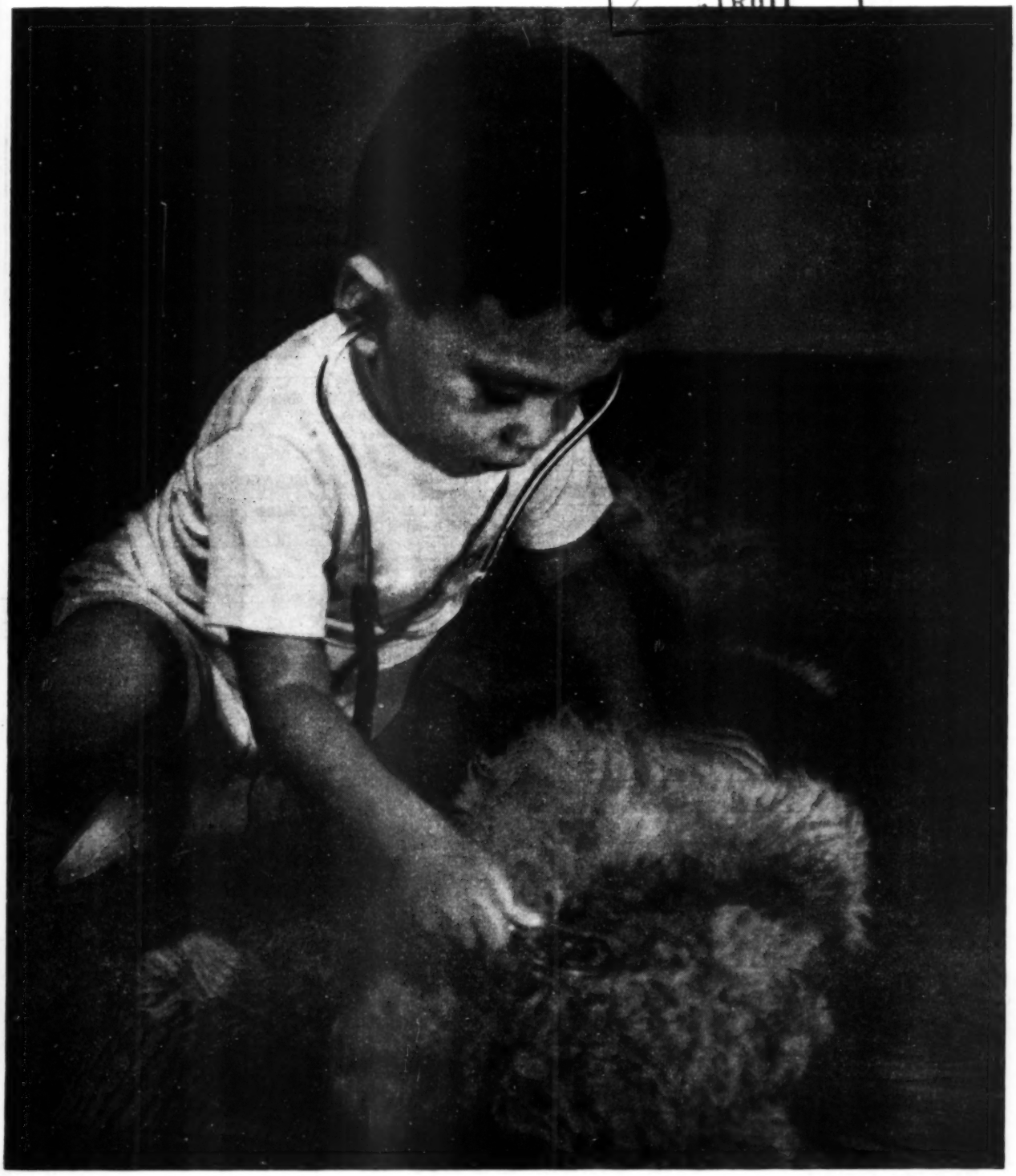

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College and School News

Sgt. Maurice C. Clifford of MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE, and Douglass Hunt, of the University of North Carolina, represented Negro and white southern college and university students as unofficial observer at the San Francisco conference.

Sgt. M. C. Clifford

Sgt. Clifford, assigned to the Army Specialized Training Corps, is a sophomore medical student at Meharry and a native of Washington, D. C. He is a graduate of the Dunbar high school, Washington, Hamilton college, and the University of Chicago. He is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Commencement exercises at VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE were held on June 4, with the principal address being delivered by Dr. Jackson Davis, associate director of the General Education Board. The baccalaureate sermon was preached on June 3 by Rev. Marshall L. Shepard, recorder of deeds, Washington, D. C., and pastor of the Mount Olivet Tabernacle Baptist church, Philadelphia, Pa.

One feature of the commencement program was an art exhibit held May 26 through June 4 by Misses Amaza Lee Meredith and Helen Cornele Cuyjet of the college art department.

Simultaneous summer school terms will open at the college June 18; a six-week term which runs until July 27, and a nine-week term which ends August 17. Both sessions feature workshops in education, with a special workshop on the natural resources of Virginia under the direction of Dr. Percy H. Baker.

HAMPTON INSTITUTE summer school will open on June 19 and continue until August 22. In addition to the regular nine-week term, the summer school will provide a six-week term from June 19 to July 31. Regular undergraduate and gradaute courses are offered along with special workshops and institutes as well as an English competence clinic and a seminar in research. There will be special education courses offered for teachers of the deaf and the blind.

The college also sponsors an interracial camp for college women under the direction of Miss Anne Cooke. There are two terms: June 20-July 25, and July 26-August 29.

Because of wartime travel restrictions, annual meeting of the Hampton Institute Ministers' Conference will not be held this year.

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Commencement exercises at Hampton were held on May 28, with the principal address being delivered by Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard university. Bishop W. Y. Bell delivered the baccalaureate sermon on May 27.

The Hampton Script, undergraduate newspaper at the college, has received an honor rating of "excellent" by the Associated Collegiate Press. Special commendation was noted in the rating for the editorial page and the quality of the editorials which appeared during the year 1944-1945. Editor-in-chief of the *Script* is O. Rudolph Aggrey of Salisbury, N. C., a junior in the division of social studies at Hampton.

A code of practice governing appointments, salaries, and tenure of members of the educational staff at Hampton has been recently adopted by the faculty and trustees of the college. Yearly salaries under the new code will range from a minimum of $1900 for instructors to a maximum of $5000 for full professors. In addition, full professors of long and distinguished service may receive salaries up to $6000. The statute continues the practice of written contracts between the college and members of the educational staff and sets up a procedure for appeal to the faculty and the board of trustees in case of dismissal for cause.

Dr. Viktor Lowenfeld, professor of art and chairman of the art department, was recently elected president of the board of trustees of the Virginia Art Alliance, an organization of schools, colleges, museums, and clubs throughout Virginia interested in the development of art in the state. Three Negro colleges, Hampton, Virginia State and Virginia Union University, are members of the Alliance.

A newly elected member of the Hampton board of trustees is Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Employees of America and a member of the general executive board of the CIO.

College quota for the third United Negro College Fund drive was set at $6458 after President Bridgman outlined the purposes and objectives of the drive.

FISK UNIVERSITY announces the second annual institute of race relations to be held at the university from July 2 to July 21. Held under the auspices of the Race Relations Division of the American Missionary Association, the Institute plans nine special seminars on various aspects of interracial relations. Among outstanding consultants and discussion leaders will be Dr. Ira DeA. Reid, professor of sociology in Atlanta university; Dr. Charles H. Thompson, head of the department of education at Howard; W. W. Alexander,

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The Institute, under the direction of Dr. Charles S. Johnson, director of the department of social sciences at Fisk, will give special attention to all the major minority problems in the United States, with special emphasis upon the Negro as America's largest minority group.

The *SS Fisk Victory*, sponsored by Mrs. Ogden Reid of New York, was launched April 25 at Richmond Shipyard Number 2, Richmond, California. Special guests representing Fisk at the launching were alumni Hugh MacBeth, attorney, Los Angeles, California, and Honorable Gabriel Dennis, secretary of state of Liberia, Africa, and a delegate to the San Francisco conference.

FAYETTEVILE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE held an exhibit of the races of mankind during April. All Negro schools in the city and county sent representatives to see this visual presentation of the facts about race and culture.

SHAW UNIVERSITY has launched a campaign for a quarter-million dollars to be used in erecting an administration building and a bady needed dormitory. Led by a $500 subscription from President Daniel, the Shaw faculty, staff, and students have subscribed over $13,000 in the campaign, and have already begun monthly payments.

Commencement exercises at Shaw were held May 27-28, with the principal address being delivered by Dr. Ambrose Caliver, senior specialist in the United States Office of Education.

A workshop on problems and opportunities confronting Negro youth was held at the university April 26-28. On April 30 the Paul Robeson Children's Theatre presented a musical revue at the Booker T. Washington auditorium. Title of the revue was "Their Time and Our Time," featuring contrasts of old songs, dances, and playlets with those of the modern jazz age.

Funeral services for Dr. Monroe N. Work, director emeritus of the department of records and research at TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, were held in the institute chapel May 4. Dr. Work died May 2.

Alumni address was delivered in April by Dr. Paul Kelly, college physician at Talladega. Annual meeting of the board of trustees was held April 7 at which time a post-war educational program for the institute was discussed.

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War correspondent Bruce Thomas was a speaker at SPELMAN COLLEGE in April. Another recent lecturer at the college was Max Brauer, anti-Nazi, and former mayor of Altona, Germany.

Annual concert of the college glee club was held in the Sisters chapel April 13. The concert was under the direction of Willis Laurence Jones of the Spelman music department.

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY'S fourth annual art exhibition was featured in the April 9 issue of *Time* magazine.

Newly elected members of the board of trustees of the university are Albert Lyon Scott, president of Lockwood-Greene & Co., engineers, of New York and Truman K. Gibson, Sr., president of the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co. of Chicago. Both trustees are distinguished figures in the business world, and Mr. Gibson is an Atlanta alumnus.

Recent speakers at the university have been Dr. Harold Cooke Phillips of Cleveland, Ohio, who spoke at the convocation; and Walter Pach, celebrated New York artist and critic, who was one of the judges in the annual art exhibition held at the university.

Atlanta university summer school, conducted by all of the colleges for Negroes in Atlanta under the leadership of the university, will open June 11 for a five-week term. The second session will open July 16 and close August 18. Both sessions will be under the direction of John P. Whittaker, registrar of Atlanta and Morehouse.

On the eve of its appearance at Atlanta's Paramount theatre, Information Please gave a guest performance at the university. Recently attention was called to the work of the Negro colleges in Atlanta through the medium of a feature story by Warner Olivier in the *Saturday Evening Post*. The article, titled "Stony Path to Learning," was published coincident with the formal opening of the annual drive of the United Negro College Fund.

A discussion of Haiti as a laboratory for cultural research was held at the university in May under the leadership of Dr. Charles S. Johnson, director of the division of social science at Fisk.

At MOREHOUSE COLLEGE forty students were cited, in April, for scholastic achievement. Arthur Lee Clark, of Orlando, Florida, made the highest average and was closely followed by Charles E. Morton, of Bessemer, Alabama. The rating was based on work of the first semester, and students who won the

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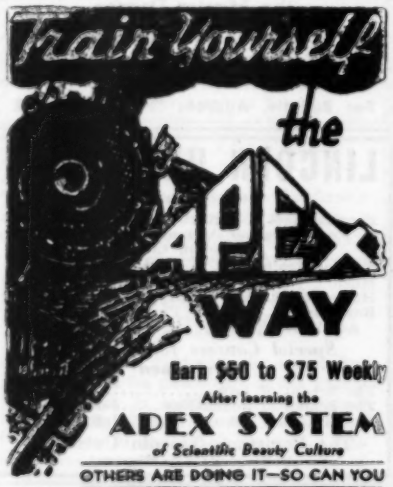

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Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse and vice-president of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, was honored at the 112th commencement exercises at Denison university (Granville, Ohio), April 30, with the degree of doctor of laws. According to the citation, the award was made because of Dr. May's "distinguished contributions to the educational life of America, particularly in the area of Negro education, and also for his outstanding leadership in the field of race relations."

Columbus Roberts, former commissioner of agriculture for the state of Georgia, recently contributed $10,000 to the college endowment fund. This gift really means an addition of $20,000, inasmuch as any sums contributed up to July 1, 1945 will be equally matched by an educational foundation.

Mrs. Leola C. Moron, a native of Baltimore, Md., and a 1945 graduate of the ATLANTA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, has been appointed case worker with the Metropolitan chapter of the American Red Cross, Boston, Mass.

Commencement exercises of SAMUEL HUSTON COLLEGE were held on May 20, with the principal address being delivered by Dr. Harold C. Case, pastor of Elm Rock church, Scranton, Pa. Joint baccalaureate services were held by Samuel Huston and Tillotson on May 20. The speaker was Dr. Raymond Henderson, pastor of the Second Baptist church, Los Angeles, California.

On May 6 the college presented Marcet Hines King in an organ recital at the Wesley Methodist church. The Acme Singers appeared on the same program. Mrs. Marion Jackson Downs, singer, and Mrs. Anne Brown, singer and actress, gave concerts in the college artists series.

On April 18 the Alpha Mu chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sponsored its annual vocational guidance program. Mrs. M. A. Yerwood Tolbert addressed the students on the choice of a vocation.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY announces the expansion of its division of social work to the status of a graduate school of social work. The change, scheduled to take effect with the autumn quarter, 1945, will make it possible for students to achieve the masters degree in social work at the successful conclusion of two years of work. Aim of the enlarged program is to prepare workers for fields now greatly undermanned, such as medical social work, public health, community organizations, etc.

Dr. Walter Gray Crump, surgeon and philanthropist, and a member of the Howard board of trustees died in New York City May 9. He was especially interested in the Howard medical school and the work of the annual clinics held at the John Andrew Memorial Hospital at Tuskegee.

Second annual meeting of the Delaware Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers was held at DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE on April 27. Theme of the meeting was "The Role of Youth in Facing Conflicts." Addresses were delivered by E. J. Waters, state youth counselor; Dr. Howard D. Gregg, president of Delaware State; Dr. H. V. Holloway, state superintendent of public instruction; and Howard Cornish, professor in Morgan college, Baltimore, Md.

Commencement exercises at MORRISTOWN COLLEGE were held on May 30. The address was delivered by Chaplain A. D. Williams, of the 373nd Infantry Regiment, Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Baccalaureate services were held on May 27, with Dr. Earl Starkey, executive secretary of the New Jersey Conference, delivering the address.

Speakers at recent college vesper services were Dr. W. R. Curtis, pastor of Centenary Methodist church, Morristown, Tenn., and Dr. A. J. Simmons, pastor of Bethel AME church.

First and third prize winners, respectively, in the essay contest sponsored by the Charleston (West Virginia) Ministerial Association were Lorraine Adams of GARNET HIGH SCHOOL, Charleston, and Maxine Crozier of the same school. First prize was a twenty-five dollar war bond; third prize, five dollars in war stamps. Subject of the essay contest was "Racial Implications of Brotherhood." Judges of the essays were Dr. Ashby C. Blackwell, dean of Morris Harvey college; Howard L. Chernoff, of radio station WCHS; and Dr. William J. L. Wallace, of the department of chemistry at West Virginia State college. The Charleston Ministerial Association is an interracial organization.

March issue of *The News Letter*, published by the bureau of educational research of OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, is devoted to a discussion of "The Price of Prejudice." In conclusion the article, written by Edgar Dale, asks: "Where in our curriculum do we teach the science of race and heredity? Where are the Hitlerian myths about race exploded? Where do we teach the evil effects of segregation, of unequal educational opportunities? What have we done to enlist the rich resources of the movies, the radio, and the press in this fight against intolerance and for fair play?"

Forty-three high school principals from thirteen states participated in a three-day workshop at DILLARD UNIVERSITY, in May, for the purpose of analyzing the outlook for colored youth in business, industry, and the professions. Aim of the conference was to determine what the high school and the college can contribute toward the solution of these major problems.

Panel leaders were, for industry, Julius A. Thomas, director of industrial relations for the National Urban League; for the professions, Dr. Ira DeA. Reid, professor of sociology in Atlanta university; and, for education, Dr. Charles H. Thompson, dean of the graduate school at Howard university.

Highest score in the rating of schools in the annual Dillard high school drama tournament was won by McKinley high school of Baton Rouge, La., with the play, "The Child Wonder," directed by Myrtle Lamotte Smith. McKinley high school will receive the large loving cup donated by the university.

The Paul Breaux high school of Lafayette, La., with its play, "The American Way," under the direction of Mrs. Magnolia Trotter achieved the second highest score; and the Louisiana Negro Normal high school received the third highest mark with the play, "Gloria Mundi." The schools entered in the contest do not compete against each other, but work for excellence of production in the play chosen.

Eleven Negro enlisted men of the medical department received commissions as second lieutenants, in April, after their graduation from the officers candidate school at CARLISLE BARRACKS, Pa. They were among a large group who received gold bars following seventeen weeks of intensive training at this school.

Ruby E. Stutts Lyells (Mrs. M. J. Lyells), librarian of ALCORN A. & M. COLLEGE is now on leave to serve as special library assistant at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. Mrs. Lyells, a graduate of Alcorn, Hampton Institute, and the University of Chicago contributes to the *Mississippi Educational Journal, Library Journal, Vital Speeches,* and the *Journal of Negro Education.* She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and is president of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

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THE CRISIS

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A Record of the Darker Races

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Vol. 52, No. 6 Whole Number 414

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910 *and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is published monthly at* 69 *Fifth Avenue, New York* 3, *N. Y., by The Crisis Publishing Co., Inc., Dr. Louis T. Wright, president; Walter White, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian A. Alexander, treasurer. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15 *cents a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscription may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care, it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March* 3, 1879.

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WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED WITH THIS COPY SEND IT TO A BOY IN CAMP

COVER

Song and story tell of the affection of a boy for his dog. Here is little three-year-old Farrow Allen, Jr., joyfully examining his dog with his father's stethoscope. Little Allen is making an early start in medicine. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Farrow Allen of New York City.

NEXT MONTH

We have had Dr. Richard Pattee's "Barriers to Latin-American Negro Studies" in type for some time now, and we plan to publish it in our July issue. Then we have Atty. George C. Edwards' views on white justice and Negro progress. Atty. Edwards is a white Southerner. Ben Segal will tell what happened in Chicago when the Central YWCA College refused to take a forthright stand on racial discrimination. There will be in addition an ironic short story of intraracial color prejudice in Miss Octavia B. Wynbush's "The Black Streak."

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Howard Baer is in the Navy and is a frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines. Orrin C. Evans is on the staff of the Philadelphia (Pa.) *Record*. Ernest E. Johnson, Washington chief of the Associated Negro Press filled a special assignment in London for the Norfolk *Journal and Guide* earlier during the year. He is the only Negro member of the State Department Correspondents Association. Dr. Benjamin Quarles is professor of history in Dillard university, New Orleans, La. In civilian life, T/5 Irwin Ross was a frequent contributor to *Liberty*, the *New Yorker*, and other periodicals. He is now connected with the Technical Information Section of the Office of the Chief of Transportation, European Theatre Operations.

Editorials

Now for V-J Day!

WITH the ending of the war in Europe, all eyes turn now to the Pacific where Japan holds on tenaciously under the reeling blows of our air, sea, and land forces. Although certain to be defeated, the Japanese fight with a fury and a fanaticism which is causing mounting casualties among our forces.

We will win, but we will win sooner if we muster every weapon and dedicate all activity toward victory. That means we must not only stay on our jobs and produce the ships, weapons and supplies, but we must rid ourselves of certain notions which have kept us from greater progress to date.

First of all we ought to know by now that we cannot win this war by calling names. Admiral William F. Halsey, a good fighting man, is nevertheless a not-so-good name-caller. He cannot issue a public statement without calling the Japs monkeys. His face must still be red from his prediction that we would knock out the little so-and-sos before the end of 1944. That was before we lost 500 dead per square mile on Iwo Jima, and a total of 2,500 casualties per square mile on that same dot in the Pacific. That was before Okinawa where the fighting and dying is reported to be as bad as that on Iwo.

In other words, we are up against a first class enemy who can and will fight. America is a "white-minded" nation. We tend to look down our noses at people who are not white. If we continue to maintain this attitude in the Pacific war we may send more American boys to their deaths than we should. The Jap bullets are deadly enough; there is no need to kill our men with contempt based upon color.

Negro Soldiers in Europe

IN Europe the Negro soldier proved what his people back home knew all along—that he could fight with all weapons against the best the enemy had to offer. He flew fighter planes escorting bombers, and fighter-bombers against enemy communications; he fought light, medium and heavy artillery, one unit winning a Presidential citation; he fought tanks and tank destroyers; he fought anti-aircraft guns; he fought mortars, machine guns, bazookas, carbines, automatic rifles.

In the closing weeks of the war in Germany he was finally given the chance for which he had been begging, the chance to fight side by side with his white fellow Americans in the same units. Rifle platoons of Negro soldiers, re-trained after duty as service troops, acquitted themselves well when attached to "white" regiments. *The Crisis* has a letter from one white soldier in a regiment which received one of these platoons, praising not only their performance, but the whole idea of integrated units.

It is to be hoped that the performance of our soldiers in Europe will move the War department to abolish the color line in the Army. There is no sense in a nation preaching democracy and spending billions of dollars and a million casualties (to date) to achieve it, and then separating its fighting men on the basis of color.

Speaking of Fighting Men—

WE have been intending to say something all along about Lieut. Lee A. Archer, Jr., of New York, a pilot who has ten German planes to his credit—four shot down and six destroyed on the ground. The Army Bureau of Press Relations arranged an interview several months ago and Archer talked to reporters, revealing (unconsciously) a fighting spirit and an American pride that makes the color line seem very small indeed. Said he:

"My Buddy, Capt. Wendell Pruitt of St. Louis, and I were cruising along by ourselves when we spotted twelve German fighters. Since we were in Mustangs, that made it about even and we decided to jump them. Pruitt got two and I got three before the rest of the squadron came along and knocked out the other seven. It was one good fight."

Archer and Pruitt figured that two good American pilots in two fast American planes were *about even* in a battle against *twelve* German pilots, "and we decided to jump them." How typically American! They did not think as Negroes, but as well-trained youngsters flying superb equipment, ready to fight for their country. They figured the odds of 6 to 1 "made it about even" and so they went to work. They were doing all right for themselves when the rest of the squadron came along.

What a pity for the War department to waste this kind of spirit, this kind of skill, this kind of love of country! What a tragedy that America takes lads like these (Pruitt was subsequently killed in a routine flight in this country) and crushes them beneath segregation and discrimination based upon color!

San Francisco

AS this is written the United Nations Conference in San Francisco has not finally settled the matter of trusteeships for old mandated areas and for territories captured in this war, but the line-up on this question and on the larger question of the future of all colonial peoples has been revealed.

On one side stand the great colony-holding nations, Britain, France, Holland and others—and America. On the other side stand China and Russia. The statement of the United States position, made by Commander Harold E. Stassen, refused to support the Chinese proposal and the Russian amendment calling for "independence" as a goal for colonial people. Commander Stassen contented himself with including the word "self-government."

American Negroes should note first of all that the San Francisco discussion on this topic *does not touch in any manner the colonies held at the present time by the great powers.* It relates only to the territories under the old League of Nations mandate system, and to other territories conquered in this war. It does not affect the African colonies of France, Britain and Belgium, the West Indian holdings of Britain, France and Holland, or the Far Eastern holdings of France and Holland. These are "safe" in the hands of their imperial masters.

But there was a chance at San Francisco to lay down a policy in connection with territories of dependent peoples outside the regular colonies, a policy which might become the basis for a new attack in the future on the whole imperial colonial system. The United States, through Commander Stassen, who was our delegation's representative on the trusteeship committee, refused to affirm the principle that dependent people have a right to look forward to independence. In so doing Stassen has reversed traditional American policy. The nation was founded upon the principle of independence. Our action in the Philippines is in line with that principle. Instead of affirming it here, we permitted China and Russia to take the leadership—and then refused to support them!

Stassen's stand produced such a reaction that Mr. Stettinius felt it necessary to issue an explanatory statement saying we favor eventual independence if the people want it and if they are capable of carrying the responsibilities that go with freedom. If this is so, why not write it into the charter? If full self-government—proposed by the United States—does not include the right to choose independence, then the U. S. proposal is base deception, for it does not mean even what it says.

Liberal Americans and American Negroes did not expect the millenium from San Francisco, but they did not expect so bald a compromise of basic American principle as was exhibited in the trusteeship matter.

Negro Soldiers in Transportation

By Irwin Ross

Negro soldiers comprise the majority of the Transportation Corps Port Battalions, truck companies, and amphibious truck companies in the ETO. It is their courage and efficiency that has helped keep the Red Ball Express rolling. A report on their activities by an officer in the office of the Chief of Transportation

IN THIS WAR, the man behind the man with the gun has finally come into his own. It is generally recognized that success on the battlefield depends on a steady flow of supplies reaching the armies. If crucial items are lacking, if there is delay in the ports or on the truck routes or rail lines, the infantry cannot advance.

Our success in the European battle of supply was based in large part on a far-flung transportation network, built in the face of incredible obstacles. Negro soldiers had a big hand in keeping the transport lines open. They comprise the majority of the Transportation Corps' fort battalions, truck outfits, and amphibious truck companies. They landed with the assault troops on D-day. They opened the port of Cherbourg, manned the famed Red Ball Express, and helped turn an enemy offensive into a resounding defeat in the Battle of the Bulge.

Negro troops heaved cargo on the docks of La Havre, Rouen, Marseilles. They ran the stuff down the line on the ABC route from Antwerp.

The experiences of the 502nd Port Battalion, which landed in France on D/1, are typical of the stevedore units. On the morning of D/1, the first party of the battalion moved toward the beach on an LC1 (Landing Craft Infantry.) Some 300 yards out, the ramp was lowered and the men, clutching a guide rope, began walking into shore. They had covered half the distance when the guide rope snapped. Weighed down by their equipment, six or eight men were submerged in the surf. By this time, the platoon commander and five enlisted men had made the beach. They ditched rifles and packs; headed back into the water after their comrades; and they rescued all but one. The men were given artificial respiration and taken to an aid station. That night three of them died.

First Days of Invasion

Meantime the battalion started unloading ships. Work went on twenty-four hours a day. The men rode the "duck," a constant prey to underwater mines, out to the ships anchored some distance from shore. They worked the ships' holds, transferred cargo from "duck" to truck on the beach. The Germans lobbed over 88's and bombed and strafed the beach. The men would dive for their slit trenches, then scramble back to work as soon as the attack was over. At night they slept in foxholes, or curled up on the steel portable docks, or on a hard-mud road that was not in use. But they accomplished their missions: they got the ships unloaded. One platoon "bested" all records for a twenty-four hour period when it unloaded 980 tons of cargo into "ducks." After the first days of the invasion, there was no longer much danger from overhead fire, but the work went on without any slackening—day and night, seven days a week, from June 7 to November 15, when the battalion finally packed up and moved to a port in Northern France.

Supply Bottleneck Cracked

The same story—of endless, fatiguing work, accomplished under the most primitive living conditions—has been repeated in the experience of dozens of port battalions at Cherbourg and Marseilles, Le Havre and Rouen. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of the work of these outfits. Getting supplies from ship to shore and from shore to truck and train is a problem that plagued Transportation Corps officials from D-day on. At first the Allies had no ports, no dockside facilities at all with which to unload ocean-going vessels. The capture of Cherbourg, Le Havre, Rouen was long delayed by the Germans' tenacious defense. Once we took these ports, we found them to be thoroughly demolished. Piers had been blasted into rubble, sunken ships blocked the basins, the waters were combed with mines.

PRO Photo

Here a truck-tractor backs its heavy trailer into the LST's tank deck. Notice that the truck is dwarfed by the swinging doors of the Landing Ship, Tank.

Signal Corps Photo

An express convoy moves forward somewhere in France. Before such a convoy starts, the drivers are briefed on their itinerary, given the latest information on road conditions, detours, and other matters affecting the run. A convoy often travels at a speed of 60 miles an hour.

Meantime, the matériel needs of the armies kept mounting. The ports were the first supply bottleneck that had to be cracked. The energy and skill of the port battalions were crucial in boosting tonnage figures week by week. And the skill involved was considerable; many of the jobs in a port battalion—winch operators, tractor operators, signalmen, coopers, riggers and so on—demand long training and rigorous application.

Closely linked with the work of the port batallions was that of the amphibious truck companies. The amphibious truck is the familiar army 2½ ton truck, with hull and propeller attached. It is popularily called a "duck" from the manufacturer's serial letters, DUKW. The "duck" companies, most of which are Negro, worked the invasion beaches of "Omaha" and "Utah" and were very active in the ports until repairs to the docks had proceeded far enough to allow unloading from ship to shore.

Operating a "duck" is skilled work. It is far more difficult than running a truck on a highway. The driver has to be very careful in supervising the loading, for the loaded craft rides low in the water and if its balance is off, a single wave can submerge it. The driver has a hard job maneuvering the "duck" into position and keeping it in one place while it is taking a load from a ship.

And it is dangerous work. At night, off the beaches, the "ducks" would sometimes hit the submerged hulls of wrecked boats and sink, and there has never been a sure way, in either beach or port, to avoid mines.

Once cargo is ashore, only one hurdle has been overcome in its journey to the armies. The port area has to be cleared, the supplies have to move. In the early days in France, the railroads couldn't operate to any appreciable extent because of the destruction wrought by Allied bombing and German demolition. The trucks had to carry the whole load.

Negro units were hauling supplies right up to the front lines—taking everything the Germans threw at the infantry. Here is the story of one outfit: "On August 8, the company arrived at Plabenniac, about four miles from Brest. We settled down with a slight air of complacency. Not for long, however, because on the afternoon of August 8 our bivouac was under the direct fire of two German 88's which had been by-passed in the drive and were firing into our area from the rear. The company was pinned down to the ground for almost an hour while the shells pounded our area and a convoy moving on the road just outside.

"An ammunition truck was hit a hundred yards away and 90 mm. shells blew up at intervals. While the ammunition truck was exploding, our trucks were ordered to the truck park by infiltration. It was at this time that the truck driven by T/5 Alvin S. Delaney was hit by shell fire. Delaney completed the trip and put out a fire started on his truck. For this action he was awarded the Bronze Medal."

Red Ball Followed Patton

When Patton raced across France, the Red Ball Express fed ammunition, gasoline and food to his lightning armor. The Negro truck drivers—sixty percent of all Express drivers—distinguished themselves on the Red Ball. The man behind the wheel worked shifts up to thirty-six hours at a time, his only rest ten minute "breaks," along the side of the road, every two hours. He ate K-rations, bedded down on the ground when he was finally relieved, got up to take the wheel for another thirty-six hour trek. But the Red Ball, running endless convoys along a one-way highway network that added up to a thousand-mile round-trip ("four times as long as the Burma road"), left a record that has been unequalled in military trucking history. In its eighty-one days' existence, it carried over 500,000 tons of supplies. Red Ball allowed a single port, far out in the hinterland of France—Cherbourg—to support an entire continental campaign. Red Ball didn't end until ports much closer to the front lines began delivering sizable tonnages.

Then the Negro units were shifted to the White Ball, ABC (American-British-Canadian), and other hauls. The White Ball cleared Le Havre and Rouen; the ABC is still moving supplies from the biggest port of all —Antwerp. Both White Ball and ABC were based on Red Ball principals of one-way traffic, continuous operation of vehicles with alternate drivers, and mobile repair crews available for every emergency.

When the German breakthrough occurred in December, Negro trucking units were among those pulled out of rear areas and rushed forward with reinforcements to stem the offensive. They hauled infantrymen, ammunition, rations, chemical warfare material into the fighting zone. One company brought up fuel filling kits for flame throwers. The men rode the trucks with their rifles within easy reach. They were potted at by snipers in the woods, bombed by planes. But they delivered their loads.

These men—truckers, stevedores, "duck" drivers—speeded the supplies that made possible the final smash at the heart of the Reich.

APS Photo

"Ducks," sometimes called "Dukws," unloading cargo from an ocean-going freighter. Operating one of these vessels is far more difficult than running a truck on a highway and demands a higher degree of skill. If the craft is not properly loaded, it is likely to sink.

Glen from the Bootheel

By Howard Baer

THE Negro stood at the street corner, his frayed blue shirt open at the neck to the breezes of the summer night; his hands jammed into his pockets; his kinky-haired, cropped head honestly thrust forward —black features square. And the whole of him in dejection.

As he brooded there, a young man, his white face grease-smeared, walked up to him and called, "Hiya Glen!"

"Good evenin', Paul," the Negro answered.

"Waitin' for the street car?"

"Yeah."

"Sure was a tough day. Hot as hell, and all that work," the young man said.

"It sure was."

"Damn! You'd think that foreman'd arrange the work so's it'd be even. One damn day ya sit around, an' the next day ya work yer head off."

"That's *Mister* Nick," Glen responded bitterly.

"Why d'ya call him Mister Nick, Glen?"

"He makes me. He says, he won't have any nigger callin' him plain Nick."

"It's a shame the way he treats ya. I don' know why ya take it from him."

"I have ta take it. But he makes me so damn mad. Seems like he enjoys it. I tell ya Paul, he's a bad fella."

Glen Strickland, colored boy of twenty-three, up from the Bootheel in Southeast Missouri. Come to the city because there were no jobs in the small village. Come to Kansas City where there are many others of his people—and a chance for a job.

"What car ya waitin' for Glen?"

"Vine Street."

"Comes by every other day, doesn't it?" Paul asked and chuckled.

"No, not as bad as that. It comes every hour or so this time a night."

"Ya have a long trip home?"

"About twenty minutes. I go out east about a mile'n a half."

"Nigger town, hunh?" Paul asked. Glen looked at him sharply. "Take it easy," Paul said, "I didn't mean it. Hangin' around those guys at the shop, ya pick up some lousy habits."

"That's all right Paul. I'm used to it."

"Ya got much of a place out there where ya live?"

"I've got a small apartment for my family and me."

"You got a family, Glen?" Paul asked curiously.

Glen Strickland cannot act like a man in front of his boss. He wants to but then he needs the work and he cannot keep both his manhood and his job

"Why sure," Glen said and smiled. "M'wife and kid."

Up to the city, and he works sweat-hard. At night he plays a little. He plays, and he meets a sweet girl. She loves him, and he gets to love her. He marries her, and then a kid. A little girl to Glen Strickland.

"Christ, a family! That's a responsibility."

"It sure is, Paul."

"How'd ya come to get a job at the shop?"

"They needed a handyman, and I needed the work."

"Ya been there a pretty long time, haven't ya?"

"About three years, in August."

"Ya mean ta tell me ya been takin' all a Nick's crap for three years? He's tougher'n hell on the other colored boys, but he makes a special case outa you. Why in the hell did he get it in for ya?"

"Well," the Negro said, "he didn't like me much anyway. But I fixed myself good, right at the beginnin'."

"What'd ya do?" Paul asked.

"Well, when I first started, the old handyman showed me what to do. I'd clean up early in the mornin'; do the heavy work durin' the day, an' then at night, after the fellas left clean up again. After a while, I handled the job by myself. Then one night ol' Nick came up and told me to move all a the crates outa the shop, into the yard and burn 'em. There were a helluva lot a crates, and I asked him if he wanted all a them out. He cussed me out for askin' him somethin twice, an' told me to go ahead an' do what he said."

"That's Nick—the bastard."

"Well, I moved the crates out an' burned 'em, an' the next day, all hell broke loose. First, Nick tells me he didn't mean all the crates, and then he tells me I should know better anyway. He gives me a bunch a excuses. The boss was on him, and he just turned on the first colored boy he saw—me! I told him, he said to burn 'em the night before, an' that just made him a dozen times madder."

He knew the farms and the village in the Bootheel. Glen knew the work there. Here in the city maybe a chance. He didn't want much. He just wanted work. He wanted to be let alone, and he would work sweat-hard.

"How come he didn't fire ya, Glen? He could've."

"I don' know, Paul. I heard the boss wouldn't let him. He'd been firin' too many of the colored boys, an' the boss was havin' trouble with the books, an' breakin' in new boys. He jus' tol' Nick to get used ta it."

"Y're lucky."

"Lucky! He keeps beatin' me down all the time with his words, an' the way he treats me. Givin' me the dirtiest jobs, that ain't my work. I don't mind that. It's jus' the way he acts. Runnin' me down all the time. Diggin' inta me. It ain't right."

"Why don't ya quit?"

"Quit!" Glen said desperately. "I wish I could quit his damn job, but I can't. I got a wife, an' my kid. We have ta eat. I have ta pay the rent every month, out at my place. Sometimes, I think I'll just get out, but I got nothin' else ta do, nowhere ta go, an' I gotta have work. I gotta!"

"It's rough."

"An' there nothin' I c'n do. Nothin'," he said futilely.

"Well, I guess I better be movin' along Glen," Paul said, "I gotta catch my car down the street. I'll be seein' ya tomorra."

"Year, yeah. So long Paul." Glen watched Paul walk down the street, and then turned his head from the receding figure.

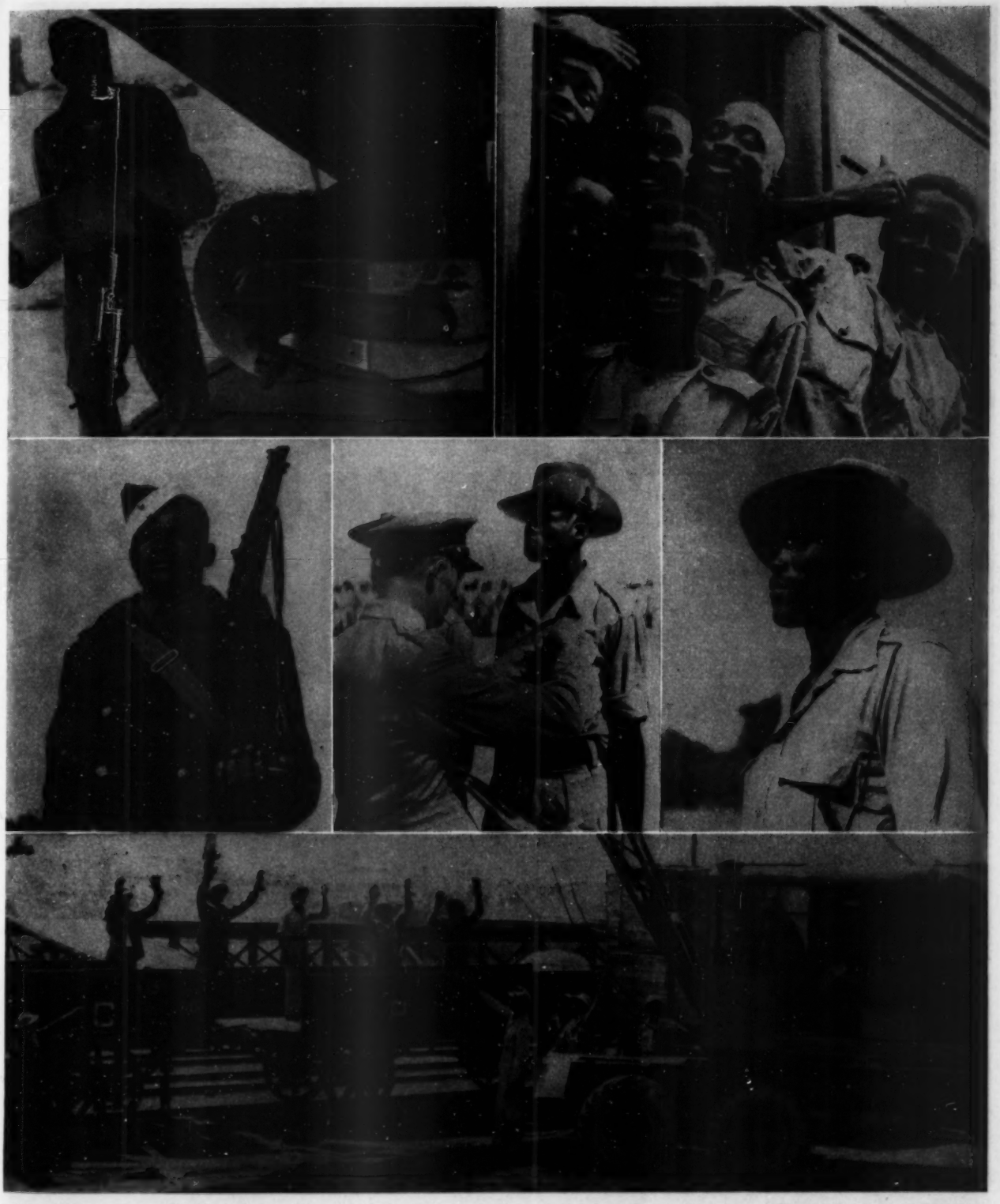
He looked down and stood in quiet, inconsolable dejection.

Glen Strickland, up to the city, and he finds a sweet girl. Then he has a sweet child. And he meets new people, but he can't act like a man in front of them. He needs work, and he can't act like a man.

Negro GIs in Supply Victory

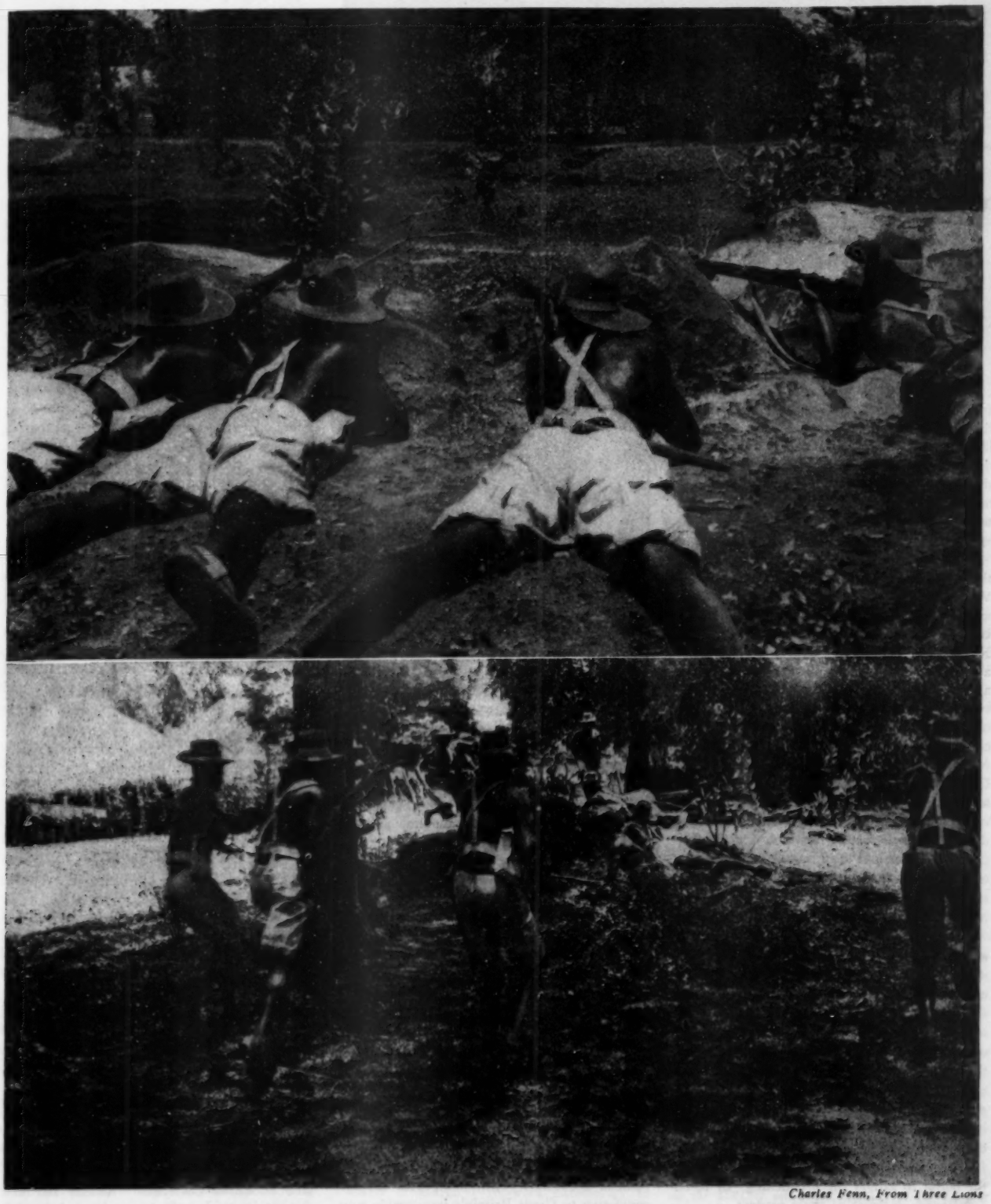
Negro and white soldiers worked side by side in staff sections and among the troops of the Army's latest heavy trucking network which supplied the materials of victory to spearheads plunging toward Berlin.

In the Highway transport Division are many Negro truck companies and battalion headquarter units, and one Negro-staffed group headquarters.



WEST AND EAST AFRICAN SOLDIERS IN THE EAST—*Top, left, a soldier in Ceylon loading a gun with cordite. Cheerful soldiers of a West African field ambulance give a smiling farewell to the port of disembarkation as their train takes them to their up-country station in India. From left to right, Sgt. Seth Anthony of the Royal West African Frontier Force, who took an officers course at Sandhurst, on parade at the school grounds. Lt. Gen. Stone pinning the British Empire Medal on the shirt of Pvt. Valentino Awori, of the East African Pioneer Corps. At the right is the picture of an East African fighter stationed in Ceylon. The bottom picture shows an American Port Battalion unloading cargo somewhere in India. (Photos from Three Lions, British Combine, and U. S. Army)*

AFRICAN TROOPS IN BURMA AND CEYLON—*Top picture shows the headquarters of the 81st West African Division in the Arakan jungle, Burma. This West African Division fought a long and bitter campaign in the Arakan in a drive to clear the coastal sector north of Akyab. West Africans have proved to be excellent soldiers in jungle warfare. Left, center, is a close-up of West African soldiers resting before they boarded a train for the interior of India. Right, East African jungle patrol camping in the Ceylon jungle. Bottom, East African troops using bicycles for scouting over the Ceylon countryside. (Photos from: Top and center left, British Combine; others by Charles Fenn from Three Lions.)*



Charles Fenn, From Three Lions

EAST AFRICAN TROOPS IN CEYLON—*Top, East African troops practicing attacks by bicycle scouts somewhere in Ceylon. Bottom, a scouting patrol of East African troops. In the fight against the Japanese in the East, in Burma especially, the British used thousands of African troops. Prior to World War II, no troops from West African colonies had ever left Africa for an overseas theatre of war. These troops had been previously used in Ethiopia and the Middle East.*

London Dateline

By Ernest E. Johnson

The report of a seasoned journalist on international problems of prime importance to American Negroes: colonies, mandates, trade unionism, British overseas investments, education, and color prejudice

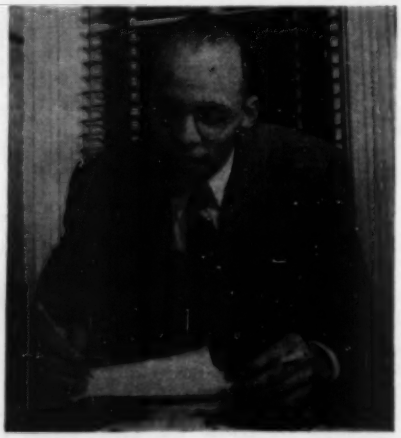
WHAT London has to say on matters affecting, and of interest to, American Negroes is not something that can be covered in twenty-two days of hurried visits and conversations. If the attempt was made it was because the *Journal and Guide* of Norfolk was curious to see what could really be accomplished on such a "quickie."

When most Negroes think of an overseas correspondent it is of a war correspondent. Few, to my knowledge, show any awareness that non-military phases of world affairs are legitimate subjects for report. Coverage of diplomatic, political, social and commercial developments emanating from world capitals and other areas are the usual rather than the unusual responsibility of the foreign correspondent.

The Afro-American of Baltimore has in the past sent Ralph Matthews and the late William N. Jones, abroad on specific assignments, and the *Pittsburg Courier* has sent P. L. Prattis. Early last winter the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association appointed a committee of three to visit West Africa on a semi-official mission for President Roosevelt during which time stories were written of conditions in that section of the "dark continent." For years now the Associated Negro Press has received news items from Chatwood Hall in Moscow and Paul Dunbar in London. George Padmore in London, a competent and informed writer, has been doing a superb job, on his end, for the Chicago *Defender* and the *Pittsburg Courier*. But only recently has any of this copy begun to get to the core of world affairs and receive improved play in our newspapers.

When the Chicago *Defender* and the *Journal and Guide* invited Henry Lee Moon and myself to go to the British capital in February at a time when the World Trade Union Conference was getting under way, the moment also coincided with the rapid movement of events related to the approaching end of the war in Europe with its attendant influence on the world of the future. Because colored peoples have fought and died in this struggle, it was but natural that there should be concern on the part of these important Negro journals as to the shape of things to come; the better to satisfy the broadening—or to-be-broadened—interest of their readers.

Seven Negroes representing the British Crown colonies participated in the trade union meetings. These delegates, along with the active aid given by the American Congress



Ernest E. Johnson

of Industrial Organizations and other national labor organizations of like mind fought hard and won the commitment from the conference to a non-discriminatory policy and the formal expression that

> . . . it is likewise necessary to bring to an end the system of colonies, dependencies and subject countries as spheres of economic exploitation, and to facilitate immediately the development of free trade unions in those countries. In the coming peace, the foundations must be laid with all possible speed, and in accordance with Article 3 of the Atlantic Charter, of a world order in which non-self-governing communities and nations can attain the status of free nations that will enable them to govern themselves and to develop their own institutions of free citizenship.

Self-Government for Colonies?

Perhaps the more burning issue facing the British Colonial Office is that of self-government for certain of the colonies and protectorates. In one dispatch, I wrote: "They (official spokesmen) will point with absolute conviction to Great Britain's irrevocable commitment that self-government will ultimately be handed to the 63 million inhabitants of these dependent territories—and persons outside of government join them in this conviction—but readily admit that the differences among them are due mainly to the question of speed, the time of achieving this end."

The reference was frequently made by them to the costliness of maintaining British interests in the colonies, but there seemed to be no disposition anywhere in or out of government to relinquish this expensive hobby. In fact, at the time of our arrival in England the House of Commons had just enacted the Colonial Welfare and Development Act of 1945 which carries with it an estimated expenditure over a ten-year period of approximately $480 millions for health, hospitals, schools, roads, airports and harbor work—but nothing for the development of farmer cooperatives for which the colonies are clamoring.

Presently brewing is a struggle between the cocoa producers of the Gold Coast and Nigeria and the shippers and processors in England. Last fall the Government published a White Paper in which it proposed the establishment of a control board which would (1) stabilize the price to the farmer, presumably above the current price; (2) sell the product in the world market; (3) and take the net profits and utilize them for research in the industry.

British and American business interests are opposed to the plan, but for different reasons. A large section of the producers are for it.[1] The latter see in it the possibility of controlling the board ultimately—duly provided for in the White Paper—and then diverting some of the profits to the expansion of their own programs and the industry itself at home.

British interests are opposed because of "government intereference", they say, but actually because it deprives them of control of the profits. Also, they see the threat of the producers themselves establishing machinery to perform primary processing operations on the raw cocoa, which would seriously affect that portion of the industry located in the United Kingdom. On the other

[1] Writing in the March, 1945, issue of the African magazine *Wasu*, H. O. Davis comments: "The scheme proposed in the White Paper . . . can only at the best result in unconscionable exploitation of the poor African peasants. The only parties to benefit will be the big European Combines and an army of salaried controllers." Africans also doubt that the increased profits are to be used for their benefit: "It is to be observed that this so-called profit which is to be used in building up the proposed organizations is the property of the peasants, and yet they are accorded the least say in the manner of its disbursement."—Ed.

hand, American cocoa dealers who, incidentally represent the largest consumer group in the world for cocoa supplies, offer the traditional objection to government control, and point out that the scheme might result in an unduly high world price which they would be compelled to pay.

West African University Planned

The Colonial Office is making much these days of the plan to establish a university in West Africa. Two issues as yet unresolved are delaying the report of the West Africa Higher Education Commission. These are:

1. Whether there should be one university established possibly in Nigeria to meet the needs of a large portion of the 28 million peoples of this area, or whether there should be three advanced schools to do the job, one in each of the three larger colonies—Nigeria, The Gold Coast, and Gambia.

2. Whether the faculty is going to comprise British professors exclusively or whether scholars from the United States and European countries may be invited to teach.

Whatever is decided, the Africans want to know that their institutions will be on a par with those in England. "This is important," says K. A. Korsah, member of the executive council of Gold Coast and a member of the study commission, "because our young people will want to be able to come here to London for post-graduate work."

British relations with Ethiopia fell within the purview of my London excursion. American Negroes, it is recalled, raised thousands of dollars during the war with Italy for the relief of suffering Ethiopians. Unfortunately, this interest in Abyssinia has not kept pace with subsequent events, developments of a nature that might readily reflect unfavorably upon British intentions in East Africa.

To be sure, the two governments did conclude an agreement at Addis Ababa on December 19, 1944, in which Ethiopian sovereignty was reaffirmed and in which the British were granted the right to remain in the Reserved Area of Ogaden and Harar provinces. This area contains rich grazing land and the prospect of oil resources. It is contiguous to British Somaliland with its poor grazing land, and the former Italian colony of Eritrea.

Mrs. E. Sylvia Pankhurst, a British woman who has championed the cause of Ethiopia since the 1936 conflict, had just returned from there where she had spent three months when I arrived. Without equivocation she said that it seemed to her that the British are apparently digging in for a long stay. She cited the fact that the agreement carries no date by which the British shall depart from the Reserved Area, and added that her own government apparently is doing all it can to prevent unity among the people of Eritrea who so sorely wish for annexation by Ethiopia.

Significantly too, at the time that Prime Minister Churchill was meeting with Emperor Haile Selassie following the Yalta Conference, I learned that the Ethiopian government would welcome a rise of American influence in East Africa but is apprehensive over the possible repercussions it would have on Anglo-Ethiopian relations.

Acme

Among members of the Ethiopian delegation at the UNCIO, San Francisco, are (left to right) Blatta Ehprum Twelde Medhen, minister to the U. S.; and chairman Bitwodded Makonnen Endalkatau, prime minister of Ethiopia.

Confirmation also was found for the desires of Ethiopia to annex Eritrea (a desire in which Great Britain avowedly does not share), and the handing over of certain war criminals. The British seemingly find themselves in the dilemma of how to regard Ethiopia. There has been no official cognizance of the request for the criminals by the War Crimes Commission. The problem is yet to be resolved as to whether the Italo-Ethiopian War was the prelude to the current world holocaust. The inclination in London is to say that it was not. Then again, the view being taken officially is that Ethiopia's request for consideration on territorial demands must await the deliberations of the United Nations, an organization and a problem which are both a product of the current war.

Events moved quickly in February with the announcement in London, Washington and Moscow of the Crimea Conference and of the conference of United Nations at San Francisco which opened in April. It was obvious that colored peoples—particularly those living in the colonies and mandates—had an especial interest in the discussions at Yalta.

Colonial Issues

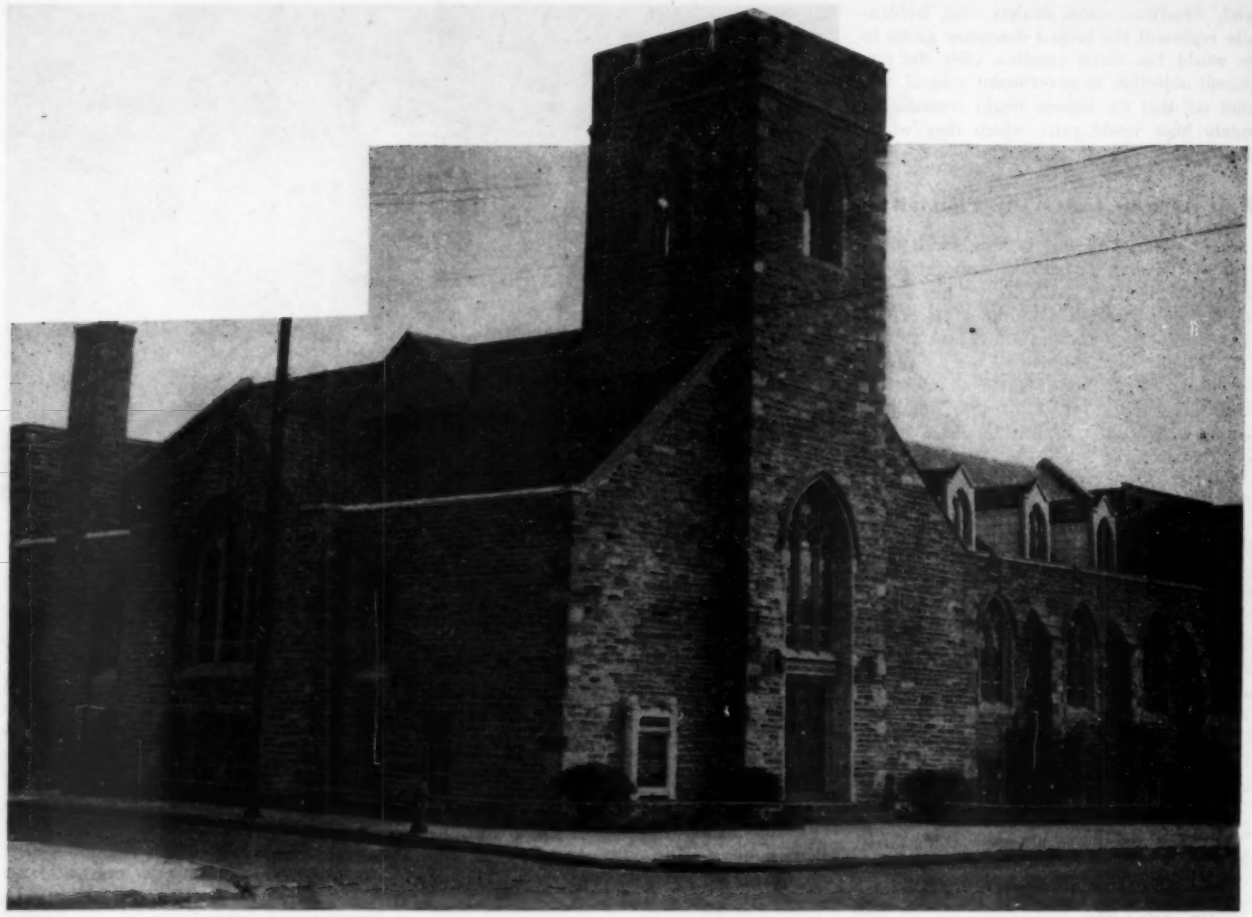
Early in March I reported exclusively to the *Journal and Guide* that "the British Government . . . is remaining silent on the subject (of territories)—as is probably the United States officially—and refuses to affirm or deny that questions related thereto arose at the Crimea Conference." In the same story was the statement that "Whereas the French rejection of the invitation to become a co-sponsor for the San Francisco Conference was *officially* based upon a difference in viewpoint in the form of the invitations, there is substantial agreement in diplomatic quarters that disagreement on mandates conclusions arrived at by the 'Big Three' was almost as much a reason, if not more."

Secretary of State Stettinius on April 3 admitted to newsmen in Washington that "the only other decisions reached at Yalta and not made public in the Crimea Conference communiqué related to initial membership in the International Organization when it meets, and to territorial trusteeship." On this latter point he added, "It appeared desirable that the Governments represented at Yalta, in consultation with the Chinese Government and the French Provisional Government, should endeavor to formulate proposals for submission to the San Francisco Conference for a trusteeship *structure* as a part of the general organization. . . . No discussion was had at Yalta or is contemplated prior to, or at San Francisco *regarding specific territories.*"[2]

Because Negroes in America and the Chinese too have long been interested in winning support for the so-called "equality clause" relating to races, states and peoples, I sounded out the views of several govern-

(*Continued on page* 182)

[2] NAACP consultants to the American delegation at the UNCIO asked for abolition of the colonial system in favor of an international agency as well as a demand for an "equality for all races" declaration in the charter of the world organization. On the other hand, Russia raised the question of the ultimate independence of all colonial peoples placed under the new world security organization.—Ed.



Philadelphia Record

Salvaged materials constitute the major portion of supplies used in construction of St. Matthews AME church and community center, 57th and Summer streets, West Philadelphia, Pa. Both buildings were erected by the pastor, Rev. M. M. Lewis, and congregation with minimum outside assistance.

Preacher-Builder: Rev. M. M. Lewis

By Orrin C. Evans

Nearly everyone in West Philadelphia has heard of the St. Matthews AME church. This is an account of how it was built, "A unique tale of pastor-congregation enterprise"

THERE are few clergymen throughout the country who can match what has been achieved in Philadelphia by 240-pound Methodist minister Rev. Mahlon M. Lewis.

In capsule dosage, here's the story:

Starting with 240 parishioners and $270, within slightly less than five years, he's built a church building and community center now appraised at $250,000—with less than $8,000 indebtedness against the plant. His present membership is approaching 3,000.

Recently the Variety Club, consisting of 150 showmen in the film and theater fields, with associates from the press and radio, turned over a check for $9,000 for "completely equipping and employment of a full-time director for the community center for one year."

The publishers of the two largest morning newspapers in Pennsylvania, J. David Stern (Philadelphia *Record*) and Walter M. Annenberg (Philadelphia *Inquirer*), have taken a personal interest in the completed project of Rev. Lewis and his congregation. Result: Few Negro churches in Philadelphia have gotten the publicity—with as much pictorial coverage—as St. Matthews' A.M.E. church.

Municipal Court Judge Nochem Winnet, who is also a leading Pennsylvania authority on juvenile delinquency and president of Philadelphia's Crime Prevention Association, is serving, and working, on the board of directors of the Mahlon M. Lewis Community Center.

Isaac D. Levy, an official of radio station WCAU, one of Philadelphia's largest outlets, is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the community center.

Behind the erection of the church, at 57th and Summer streets, in the West Philadelphia

Philadelphia Record

Rev. M. M. Lewis doubled as contractor and pastor of his church. Here he is shown putting finishing touches to the community building.

Negro residential section of the city, is a unique tale of pastor-congregation enterprise. The story goes back to the day when Rev. Lewis and his small flock began to realize the limitations of the small building they occupied. Inspired by Rev. Lewis, they decided to tear down the old building and construct a large church and community center. The $270 in the church treasury looked mighty small, but the members of the church had faith in their leader. And Rev. Lewis had deep faith, too. He told his congregation:

"I've got a lot of confidence in the Lord, and in myself."

He told the male members of the congregation that he'd "put just as much prayer and brawn into the actual construction of the church" as any of them.

And he had sufficient basis for the challenge. He was born on a farm in the hilly section of West Virginia in 1890, and he studied basic architecture and building fundamentals at Wilberforce university before entering the ministry. So when the decision was reached to tackle what Rev. Lewis terms "the biggest job in my career" he became engineer, architect, foreman, fellow-worker and pastor merged into one as he joined in razing the old and erecting a new religious plant.

The reason there's less than $8,000 indebtedness against the church today is because they purchased for cash as they went along and put into the two buildings: (1) Used steel girders and lumber from the razed Baltz Brewery, in Philadelphia; and the beautifully-finished oak to build the altar and chancel rail and lectern, which Rev. Lewis designed himself, came from the Trainer Brewery; (2) Leather-upholstered seats (1,200 of them) from the old Nixon-Grand Theater, Broad st. and Montgomery ave.; (3) Stone, used in "facing" the community center, from several recently demolished ritzy Main Line section mansions.

Practically all of the material used in construction of the project is salvaged.

Rev. Lewis estimates that his parishioners donated more than $20,000 in labor.

One day, when adult members of his congregation were unable to turn out in as large numbers as were needed, young boys in the congregation pitched into excavating and kept three trucks rolling an entire day.

Building Well Equipped

The basement assembly room in the church building seats 1,500 persons. A large kitchen, complete with steam tables, gleaming coffee urns, huge stoves and all manner of cooking utensils, adjoin the assembly room. Food can be prepared, Rev. Lewis assures, for more than 1,000 people. A first aid room, with cots and materials to treat sudden illness or accidents suffered by members or visitors, is also in the basement of the church building.

In the community center there's a gymnasium set off by a 44-foot by 80-foot recreation floor with a regulation-sized basketball court. A spectator's gallery, nine feet deep, runs around the gymnasium, and there's a a spacious shower and dressing room nearby.

On the upper floors of this building are rooms for Boy and Girl Scout troops. There's also a large game room for adult male members of the congregation, and another for women. On this floor, too, is a first-aid room.

Now, with the "cash-and-carry" church completed, Rev. Lewis says:

"It was hard going at times; often we'd have to slow up a bit until the money we were raising caught up with our energies and dreams of a big, efficient church plant. But it's been worth it. None of the members of the congregation who worked on the two buildings regret one hour of the labor we put into it."

World War I Veteran

Rev. Lewis served as a first lieutenant in World War I. He was attached to the 24th Infantry.

When he entered the ministry, he was assigned to tour small mission stations in Ohio, where for several years he was a "circuit rider." Following his traveling pastorates, he was assigned to Bethel Church, Ardmore, where he stayed for ten years prior to going to his present charge.

Throughout his career the five-foot, eleven-inch minister has shared his periods of depression and elation with his slightly-built, small wife, Cornelia, whom he married thirty years ago. There are no children.

Normandy, 1944

Down the lonely, weary road, we trod,
Not knowing, not caring when the warm sod
Will rest wounded bodies and broken souls,
Symbolic tokens of unconquered goals.
Reddened skies at sunset lighten the way
At Nature's premeditated reveille
But why do we march and tanks roll?
Do crashing bombs and bursting shell
console?
Down the lonely, weary road, we trod
Brown faces upturned, pleading to God.

—Simeon Booker, Jr.

TO FRIENDSHIP

How could I live without friendship
Hearts bending low to my call,
Graciously mindful, tenderly dear,
Drying my tears ere they fall.

I could not live without friendship
Life too unequal to bear
Were there no freshets of friendship
Springing for me here and there!

Georgia Douglas Johnson

Incident in New Orleans

By Benjamin Quarles

Here is an incident which shows that some Negroes are willing to pay and fight for justice in the courts. It also shows that some fair-minded whites will support them

A RECENT miscarriage of justice in New Orleans has provoked condemnation by all fair-minded citizens.

Early in April of 1944, an automobile driven by James Goins, a Negro, struck an eighty-year old white man, Edward Fleming, who died as a result of the accident. Goins gave himself up to the police and was charged with negligent homicide. Pending the investigation by the district attorney, Goins went about his business as usual.

Four weeks after the accident, Cletus G. Fleming, son of the deceased, walked into Goin's poultry shop on Dumaine Street in downtown New Orleans. Exactly what happened at that moment will never be known. But within two minutes after Fleming's appearance a series of shots had been fired, a scream had been heard, and Fleming had walked out of the poultry shop and had gone into a next-door drugstore. Goins was dead. Five bullet wounds had entered his body, as was later testified by the assistant coroner for Orleans Parish.

Fleming was immediately suspended from his job as a police radio dispatcher. He was indicted by a grand jury, and the Louisiana department of justice began to set in motion the machinery for his trial.

Pending the law's delays, a group of Negroes formed a Citizens Committee on the Goins case. The organizers of the movement were two Negro businessmen, John Egana, owner of a hardware store, and Joseph O'Brien, a furniture dealer. Organized specifically "to do whatever possible to assist the District Attorney in the successful prosecution of the case," the committee set $3,000 as its goal.

The campaign for funds was conducted among the rank and file of the citizenry. Contribution boxes were placed in restaurants, taverns, and union halls. The committee conducted a house-to-house campaign in the immediate neighborhood of the poultry shop. Over $1,600 was raised, and the committee secured promises for additional contributions, should the case have gone to a higher court.

The Trial

It was late in March, 1945, nearly a year after the shooting, when the suit finally reached the jury. The defense attorney did his best with a case that looked bad, viewed objectively. According to his lawyers, Fleming went to Goins' establishment solely to get information about the accident. The jury was told further that Fleming's action was not premeditated inasmuch as he carried a can of syrup and a paint brush when he entered the store. The lapse of a month's time between the accident and Fleming's call on Goins was added evidence that the police dispatcher did not have murder in his mind. The strongest argument of the defense was that Goins, a man of allegedly violent temper, advanced upon Fleming with a scraper used in cleaning chickens, and grabbed him by the arm. In self-protection, ran Fleming's story, he had no choice except to shoot.

Rebuttal Argument

These arguments were met by the attorneys for the state, assisted by counsel furnished by the Citizens Committee. The jury listened as the prosecuting attorneys charged that Fleming was guilty of taking the law in his own hands. The latter's contention that he had gone to Goins in search of information was riddled by the former district attorney who testified that his office had fully informed Fleming as to the nature of the accident and the police action against the poultry dealer.

Furthermore, asked the state's attorneys, how did it happen that Fleming was armed when he went to the shop on Dumaine Street? A radio-dispatcher working inside the police station, Fleming had no particular reason for carrying a gun. And if he fired in self-defence, why was it necessary to shoot five times? That Fleming acted in self-defence was further doubtful in view of the testimony of Goins' brother-in-law and his father, James Goins, Sr., who swore that in assisting in removing the body from the shop, they had seen no scraper.

The jury deliberated an hour and twenty minutes. It had been unconvinced by the evidence against the police dispatcher. (The jury was all-white, and Fleming's attorney had insisted that it be all-Southern.) It reached the verdict "not guilty". Police Superintendent George Reyer added the crowning touch: Fleming would be reinstated in his job!

With the acquittal of Fleming, the legal aspect of the case is closed. Its effect in the area of race relations is not easy to assess. While avoiding sensationalism, the local Negro press expressed a deep sense of outrage. Local Negro leaders feel some encouragement from the intense interest shown by Negroes in the case. In the words of Ernest J. Wright, promotional director of the Peoples Defense League, "Negroes have shown in no uncertain terms that they are willing to struggle and put their monies on the line in the fight for justice in the courts."

Another heartening straw in the wind was the attitude of the *New Orleans Item*, a white daily with a large circulation. In a critical editorial reviewing the case, the *Item* stressed the seriousness of Fleming's offense and indicated that "all the circumstances constrain us to agree with the contentions advanced by the District Attorney's department." The editorial concluded with the observation that "Perhaps the outcome in this case might have been different had the persons been of the same race."

It is quite possible that Fleming feels no sense of guilt nor Superintendent Reyer no sense of impropriety. Moral sensitivity has been habitually absent in Negro-white relations. But it will be more and more difficult to mete out legal injustice to the Negro as the swelling voice of the progressive South is increasingly heard. As expressed by Daniel E. Byrd, executive secretary of the New Orleans NAACP, in his letter of approval to the newspaper, ". . . editorials such as the one which appeared in the *Item* will go a long way toward ending the custom and tradition of making exceptions where a white person is being tried for the killing of a Negro."

APARTMENT HOUSE MOON

Tonight soft moonbeams glow
Into my window and throw
Their silver rays across the floor,
Brightly the full moon shows.

I can never dream,
When you ride the sky as queen;
So won't you do your part,
To light a lonely heart?

—Val Harris Crump

Along the N. A. A. C. P. Battlefront

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE—*Delegates and officials present at the leadership training conference held in Kansas City, Mo., in March,* 1945.

SUCCESSFUL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE STILL UNDER WAY: All reports on the branch membership-quotas for the May-June phase of the nationwide membership drive for 600,000 new members show increases over 1944, in some instances as high as one hundred percent. Goals in the larger cities have been set high. Detroit and Cleveland, with campaigns directed by Mrs. Daisy Lampkin, have set 30,000 and 10,000 respectively. In Philadelphia, where the campaign is directed by Mrs. Carolyn Moore, executive secretary, and Theodore Spaulding, branch president, the quota is 15,000. Goals in the New Orleans, La., campaign, directed by Daniel E. Byrd, is 10,000. In Houston, Texas, the branch expects to double its present membership of 10,000. Quota in Washington, D. C., where the campaign is directed by Eugene Davidson, is 10,000.

Donald Jones, assistant field secretary from the national office, is conducting the campaign in Memphis, Tenn.; and Mrs. Irvena Ming, also from the national office, is in charge of the drive in Richmond, Va.

Among the many other branches conducting campaigns are Dayton, Ohio, goal 5,000; Alameda County, Calif., goal 2,000; Norfolk, Va., goal 2,000; Tuskegee, Ala., goal 2,000; Bridgeport, Conn., goal 2,000; Akron, Ohio, goal 2,000; Seattle, Wash., goal 3,000; Bryn Mawr, Pa., goal 2,000; Rome, Ga., goal 2,000; Columbia, S. C., goal 2,000; Dover, Del., goal 1,000; Holmesburg, Pa., goal 500; and East St. Louis, Ill., goal 1,000.

In Birmingham, Ala., 5,024 new members are reported in a campaign headed by J. J. Green and Eva Flowers. And the Decatur, Ill., branch reports an increase of ninety-five percent over last year.

WHITE CORPORAL GIVES NAACP $100: Corporal Irwin Ross, the well-known writer now serving in a transportation unit overseas and author of the article "Negro soldiers in Transportation" in this issue, has directed *Liberty* magazine to send the Association $100, part of the money for an article which appeared in the May 19 issue of that magazine. Since the article, "They Kept the Army Rolling," is about army railroads in Europe and since military regulations prevented Cpl. Ross from accepting pay for work done in connection with his army duties, he contributed his check to various causes, including the NAACP. This is the second gift of this nature received by the Association, the first having been $1,000 received early in 1944 from Sgt. John Sweet who gave away the money he received for acting in the British motion picture, "A Canterbury Tale."

BIRMINGHAM TEACHERS WIN SALARY EQUALIZATION: A decree signed in Birmingham, Ala., April 27, by the Federal district court, orders the equalization of the salaries of Birmingham Negro school teachers with those of whites beginning September, 1945.

The case, brought by William J. Bolden, was filed March 27, 1942. Attorneys for Bolden were Arthur D. Shores of Birmingham and Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, of New York.

ARKANSAS TEACHERS CONTINUE SALARY FIGHT: In Little Rock, Arkansas, the fight of Negro teachers for equal salaries was carried to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the eighth district in St. Paul, Minn., May 7. Original suit of the Little Rock teachers was filed February 28, 1942 and charged that Negro teachers with the same training and experience, performing essentially the same duties, are paid less than white teachers of the same grade and experience, and that this differential is due solely to race and color.

On September 28, 1942, the case was tried on its merits in the U. S. court for the eastern district of Arkansas, and on March 10, 1944, Judge Trimble decided against the Negro teachers and gave judgment for the defendant school board. It is from this decision that the teachers are appealing, and their case was presented to the Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Paul by J. R. Booker, of Little Rock, and Thurgood Marshall, of New York.

The Little Rock case is the second one during the past seven or eight years that the NAACP has been handling them in which a school board has chosen to go as high as the Circuit Court of Appeals, which is second only to the U. S. Supreme Court. In the other case, arising in Norfolk, Va., the Circuit Court of Appeals branded unequal salaries on the basis of race as unconstitutional. This decision raised the salaries of Norfolk Negro teachers a total of $129,000 annually and has been recognized as the ruling opinion in practically all states. Many boards of education have been advised by their lawyers not to fight cases in the courts because of this clear-cut precedent.

The Little Rock board of education refused to admit that the Norfolk opinion applied to the local situation, since their teachers are paid on an individual basis pursuant to a system of merit and responsibility, and have elected to fight it out in the higher court. The Negro teachers are equally confident and determined.

ROBESON TO GET SPINGARN AWARD: Paul Robeson, internationally famous actor and singer, will receive the Spingarn medal for 1944, the NAACP Spingarn Award Committee has announced through its chairman, Dr. John Haynes Holmes. The award, of which Robeson will be the thirtieth winner, was instituted in 1914 by the late J. E. Spingarn, then chairman of the NAACP board. Mr. Spingarn died in July, 1939. In his will he

set up a trust fund of $20,000 to pay and provide for the continuance of the annual award. It is a gold medal given annually to the American Negro who has made the highest and noblest achievement during the preceding year or years. Customarily presented at the annual NAACP conference, cancelled this year because of wartime travel restrictions, the medal will be formally presented at a date and place to be announced later.

Mr. Robeson received the award for his distinguished achievements in the theatre, on the concert stage, and in the general field of racial welfare. His most recent triumph is as Othello in Margaret Webster's production of *Othello*. Mr. Robeson has appeared in many legitimate plays during his stage career: *Emperor Jones, All God's Chillun, Porgy, Black Boy,* the *Hairy Ape,* and *Stevedore.* He has also appeared in such films as *Emperor Jones, Showboat, Saunders of the River, King Solomon's Mines,* and *Jericho.*

He gave his first concert as a singer in 1925, and made his first concert tour of America in 1929. His concert tours of Europe occurred in 1926-28, 1931 and 1938, with a memorable tour of Russia in 1936.

Mr. Robeson is a graduate of Rutgers college and Columbia university law school. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, was a four-letter man at Rutgers, and an all-American end on Walter Camp's team in 1918. He is married and has a son who is now a sophomore at Cornell.

BOMBER GROUP OFFICERS RELEASED: Twenty-four hours after one hundred one Negro flying officers were ordered released from confinement at Godman Field, Kentucky, the 477th Bombardment Group, a Negro medium bomber outfit, had been ordered away from Freeman Field at Seymour, Indiana. The order took effect April 26 and the destination of the bombardment group is unknown.

The officers were being held because they refused to sign a statement segregating them in a jim crow officers' club and their release came after protests had flooded the War department, including a wire from Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas of California.

Judge William H. Hastie will be chief counsel for the men and Theodore Berry of the Cincinnati branch will be associate counsel.

NEW APPEAL FILED IN ARMY SCOTTSBORO CASE: Under the War department rules which provide for the review of convictions once a year, Judge William H. Hastie, chairman of the NAACP national legal committee, and Congressman Vito Marcantonio (ALP, N. Y.), president of the International Labor Defense, have filed a petition with the Department asking for the immediate release of Frank Fisher and Edward R. Loury, Negro soldiers sentenced to life imprisonment by courts-martial in New Caledonia in 1943.

The soldiers were convicted of raping a native French woman. The sentence of Fisher was reduced to ten years and that of Loury to eight, after Hastie and Marcantonio serving as their counsel on appeal, made oral arguments and submitted briefs on their behalf in 1944.

BRANCH PRESIDENT

Dr. Roy S. Wynn, president Charlotte, N. C., branch.

The new petition points out that the woman accepted three dollars from the soldiers immediately after having relations with them. Citing this fact counsel reiterates the position taken last year that there is grave doubt of a case in Anglo-American jurisprudence where a conviction for rape has been permitted where the woman has been offered and accepted payment on the spot. And acceptance of money by the woman in this case is but one of many affirmative indications that she consented.

In a War department opinion of March 31, 1944, issued over the signature of the Under Secretary of War, the sentences of Fisher and Loury were reduced but the findings of guilt were upheld. Contention of the War department opinion is that no case is presented for a general courts-martial without a pre-trial investigation to determine whether such action is warranted. Where such an investigation warrants action, the commanding general approves and it is brought to trial.

The petition of counsel takes sharp issue with this opinion on the grounds that the examining officer, who had thoroughly examined all witnesses, recommended that the facts did not warrant prosecution for rape. But the findings and recommendations of the investigating officer were ignored and withheld from the courts-martial. This alone, says the petition, is adequate ground for releasing Fisher and Loury.

The petition also rebutts the opinion of the War department that the two soldiers were ably defended by counsel appointed by the Army. In an affidavit the soldiers charge that they first saw defending counsel less than twenty-four hours before the trial. The petition, therefore, contends that no matter how able the counsel they could not give adequate defense under the circumstances.

SEABEES HERDED TO SHIP UNDER BAYONETS: Relying upon reports from the Pacific Coast, the Association charged April 27 in a wire to Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal, that the 34th Construction Battalion (Seabees), which went on a hunger strike March 2-3 in protest against discriminatory conditions, was herded on to ships bound for the Pacific by an "armed guard with drawn bayonets."

The 34th Battalion is a veteran outfit, having already served twenty-one months in the South Pacific. Upon their return to the United States in the latter part of 1944, they flooded the Navy department, their friends, Negro organizations, and the Negro press with protests over the treatment they had been accorded by Commander J. P. MacBean, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and his executive officer, Lt. Com. C. D. White. As a result of the pressure from all sides, the Navy department removed MacBean, but has, apparently in retaliation for their just complaints, humiliated the men and treated them like prisoners of war.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO UNCIO: In a formal statement to the American delegation at the world security conference in San Francisco, the NAACP has demanded recognition of the equality of races and peoples and abolition of the colonial system. The proposals were made by Walter White, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, and Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, NAACP consultants to the American delegation.

A racial equality resolution, which might be called a world bill of rights, was introduced by the Chinese at Dumbarton Oaks but was quietly smothered. It is the hope of the NAACP, however, that there will be no repetition of such suppression at San Francisco. To this end the three NAACP officials are consulting with various foreign delegations and enlisting wherever possible their support for a strong racial equality provision.

Instead of the present colonial system, the NAACP consultants urge an international agency to which the colonial powers would be required to report. They also urge an international colonial commission on which colonial peoples would have representation. The ultimate aim is abolition of colonialism.

Some members of the American delegation seem favorable to the general idea, but are reluctant to press vigorously for specific and decisive action. In the meantime, Russia, through its delegation, has emphasized that ultimate national independence of all colonies should be the aim of any world organization controlling colonies. Ultimate independence is not the aim of the present British plan nor does it give colonial peoples the right to petition against grievances. Both America and Britain have shown a tendency to dodge the colonial issue, which is one of the most dramatic ones before the conference.

Branch News

CALIFORNIA: Speaker at the people's day rally sponsored by the Hollywood branch, June 10, will be the noted actor Orson Wells.

CONNECTICUT: Through its secretary, Miss Mary H. Thornton, the Bridgeport-Stratford branch pledged "prayers, hopes, faith and efforts for success" in a letter to President Truman.

During the membership campaign of the branch Miss Thornton succeeded in selling a five hundred dollar life membership in the NAACP to Edward Williams, a member of the executive board of the Bridgeport-Stratford branch. Mr. Williams was born in Fairfax, Va., in 1871 and went to work on his own at the early age of seven.

At the regular monthly meeting of the New Haven branch in April the subject for discussion was "Peacetime Military Conscription." The discussion was led by Ernest Lefer of the Yale Divinity School.

One feature of the membership campaign in Norwalk was a letter to the *Hour* by Alfred Baker Lewis of the NAACP board setting forth the accomplishments of the Association and asking for support from white as well as colored citizens. Mr. Lewis wrote a similar letter to the editor of the South Norwalk *Sentinel*.

On May 10 the Norwalk branch presented Ermine Hall-Allen, contralto, in a concert in the Franklin junior high school. Miss Hall-Allen, a native of Minnesota, is a member of the St. Paul Civic Opera and the Opera School of St. Paul.

The Downey Bill (S.595) which provides for an increase in the base pay of federal workers was endorsed last month by the District branch through action of its executive committee.

In a letter addressed to Henry Beitscher, president of the District Council of the United Federal Workers of America, President George E. C. Hayes stated:

> According to the latest figures on government employment released by the Fair Employment Practice Committee, in the District of Columbia alone, approximately 41,000 Negroes are presently employed by the Government. Most of these are in the lower salary brackets. The proposed legislation, if passed, would directly affect the lives of a large portion of our membership and of the entire Negro community in Washington. We therefore give our wholehearted support to this legislation and commend the United Federal Workers of America for its fight to obtain fair wage increases for Government workers.

Amendments to the Downey Bill, which were proposed by the UFWA, were also endorsed by the NAACP. These include a basic increase of twenty-five percent, instead of fifteen percent, as provided in the original bill; and a waiving of the ten percent differential for night workers as it applies to those employed by the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, the fifteen percent differential which they now enjoy, to be retained. This differential for the night workers of that department was recently secured through negotiations of the United Federal Workers and it is felt that these employees are entitled to its continuance, although the differential of ten percent would apply in other agencies if the Downey Bill becomes law.

Miss Mary H. Thornton, of the Bridgeport-Stratford branch, renewing the membership of Mayor Jasper McLevy, of Bridgeport, Conn.

The Civil Service Committee of the Senate this week completed consideration of the bill and Senator Downey will report it for action next week.

The branch has endorsed the observance of "American Citizenship Day" on Sunday, May 20. This date was set by the late President Roosevelt for the celebration of citizenship attained by native Americans reaching their majority and for those naturalized within the year.

A special radio program in observance of American citizenship day was sponsored by the NAACP on Radio Station WINX on May 20.

With Dr. Eugene C. Holmes, assistant professor of philosophy, as moderator, four Howard University students were heard in a round table discussion on the subject "The Negro—American Citizen." The students are Miss Marian Musgrave of Cleveland, Ohio; Miss Patricia Roberts, of Chicago; Mr. Julius Robertson, of Washington; and Mr. Norman Spaulding, of Chicago.

Musical selections on the program were furnished by the group "Voices of the Legion" from the James Reese Europe Post of the American Legion.

ILLINOIS: The Sharps and Flats choral ensemble were featured by the Chicago Heights branch at a membership rally in April.

INDIANA: The Indianapolis branch has announced that the case of Peter Coates, southern farm worker, whose civil rights were jeopardized by provisions of the WMC job stabilization order, has been satisfactorily settled. Lowell Trice, branch president, has issued the following statement on the Peter Coates case:

> Peter Coates, cotton farmer, gave up his lease on his farm near Yazoo City, Mississippi, last year because he and his family were slowly starving. He came to Indianapolis, found work in a vital war plant. He worked for some six weeks on a temporary permit from the War Manpower Commission; he was then laid off and ordered back to Mississippi. He appealed to the NAACP to assist him in getting a certificate of availability (permit to work) from the Yazoo City War Manpower Commission office.
>
> The NAACP contacted the Indianapolis office of the WMC which cooperated by granting Mr. Coates a temporary permit and sent his appeal to Yazoo City with the notice that the NAACP intended to fight the case to Washington if necessary.
>
> Yesterday, I was informed that Mr. Coates had been granted a permanent clearance for work in the Indianapolis area. This is an important victory for civil rights but the situation out of which it grew has not been corrected. The job stabilization program of the War Manpower Commission still permits the cotton and tobacco planters of the southern states literally to hold poor Negro or white farm workers in peonage.

IOWA: At the April meeting of the Keokuk branch reports were made on the membership drive, April 10-June 10, for five hundred members. Mrs. Beulah Anderson is chairman of the campaign and directs five teams captained by the following: Mrs. A. W. Draine, Miss Thelma Seals, B. H. Toomes, Allen Burbridge, and the Rev.

T. E. Little. Prizes will be given to those bringing in the largest number of new members.

KANSAS: The Newton branch observed its twenty-first anniversary April 26 at the Second Baptist church. The branch was chartered April 6, 1924. Speakers at the ceremony included Rev. M. C. Hooe, pastor of the Second Baptist church; Rev. F. E. Nunley, pastor of the CME church; Rev. J. R. Gray, pastor of the AME church; and Elder E. P. Billops, vice-president of the Newton branch. Branch officers are Samuel Ridley, who is serving his twenty-first year as president; D. E. Brown, secretary; and Mrs. R. O. Wagner, assistant secretary. Membership drive of the branch opened May 1 and closes June 30.

MASSACHUSETTS: As the result of a recent survey by the labor relations committee of the Springfield branch two colored girls have been given jobs in downtown Springfield establishments. One woman has a soda fountain job; the other is employed in the kitchen of a Main street establishment.

MICHIGAN: At the April meeting of the Benton Harbor branch the executive committee announced that membership in Berrien county had passed the eight hundred mark. The goal is one thousand.

Franklin Wallin, former personnel director of the Robin and Haas Chemical Manufacturing company, Bristol, Pa., was speaker at the April meeting of the Grand Rapids branch.

MINNESOTA: Byron Allen, Democratic-Farmer Labor nominee for governor last year, discussed the work of the state legislature at the April meeting of the St. Paul branch.

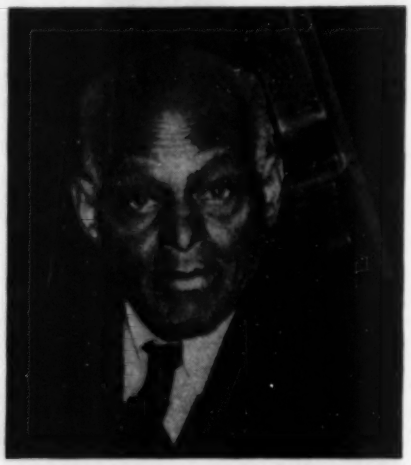
NEW JERSEY: Feature of the regular monthly meeting of the Bridgeton branch held in the Union Temple Baptist church was a debate by the junior members on the subject, "How to Reduce Race Prejudice."

At the executive board meeting of the branch of the Oranges, May 4, the board made elaborate plans for the membership drive which opened May 15 and closes June 15.

Since the establishment of the branch in 1913 with one hundred members, there has been a constant growth until the membership is now 1,250. This growth was most pronounced last year. In 1943 there were about 400 members and that year the branch set its goal at 1,000, and has enrolled 1,250 to date. This year the goal is 2,000. The membership committee is headed by co-chairman Mrs. H. T. Manning and Mrs. David Nicholas.

A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, was principal speaker at a banquet-meeting of the branch of the Oranges in the dining room of the Union Baptist church April 20. Subject of Mr. Randolph's address was "The Negro in War and Peace."

LIFE MEMBER



Edward Williams took out a $500 life membership in the NAACP during the membership drive of the Bridgeport-Stratford, Conn., branch. The membership was solicited by Miss Thornton.

Harold T. Lett, executive secretary of the New Jersey Urban League, was master of ceremonies. Other speakers on the program were Rev. W. P. Hayes, pastor of Bethany Baptist church, Newark, who introduced Mr. Randolph; Rev. J. Vance McIvor, pastor of the Union Baptist church, who delivered the welcome address; Rev. L. A. Williams, pastor of Mount Olive Baptist church, who delivered the invocation; James Curtis, president Newark branch; Mrs. Grace Fenderson; and vice-president Hipkins who gave a detailed history of the Orange branch from its founding in 1913.

Mrs. Cora Johnson was chairman of the serving committee, and musical numbers were given by Mrs. Vassie Lowry, Mrs. Ida Bailey, Miss Elizabeth Harris, and Lafayette Raye.

Under the presidency of Stanford Welcker, the Long Branch unit has entered upon a successful year. The branch fought the case of discrimination at the Viola restaurant in Red Bank; launched the branch sheet, *The Herald;* and set up a scholastic award for local high-school graduates. In May, Mr. Welcker received on behalf of the branch and Monmouth county a certificate of Merit from the New Jersey state department of health. Annual membership drive of the branch is being led by Mrs. Geneva Marshall.

A committee on education of the Camden branch assisted in arranging the following schedule for a week's survey (May 7-11) in Camden by Miss Noma Jensen, assistant field secretary from the national office and specialist in intercultural education for the NAACP: Monday: Interviews with Dr. Leon Neulen, superintendent of Camden schools, and his two assistants, Dr. McKendres and Mr. Trembath; Tuesday morning: observed in the Camden high school; Tuesday afternoon: spoke before the Camden city board of education; Tuesday evening: spoke before the committee on education of the Camden NAACP and the press conference; Wednesday morning: observed in the Clara Burroughs junior high school; Wednesday afternoon: spoke before 2,000 students at the Hadden Heights high school; Wednesday evening: spoke before the Camden youth council at the YMCA and to the PTA of Sumner school; Thursday morning: observed in the Hatch junior high school; Thursday afternoon: observed in the Stevens elementary school; and Thursday, 4:00 P.M., spoke before a group of Camden Negro teachers who are interested in being appointed to the staff of the junior and senior high schools.

Thursday evening she spoke to the regular meeting of the Camden branch; Friday morning: observed in the Woodbury high school and in the Carpenter street elementary school, and also held an interview with the principal of the Carpenter street school; Friday afternoon: held an interview with Mayor George E. Brunner of Camden, and Friday evening: a conference with the executive board of the Camden branch.

NEW YORK: Dr. Channing H. Tobias, senior secretary for service to colored men and boys of the national council of the YMCA, paid tribute to Wendell L. Willkie and Franklin Delano Roosevelt at a buffet supper held by the Nyack branch at Fendracht House in April. Other speakers at the supper were Dr. William Neely Ross, pastor of the First Reformed church of Nyack, and the Rev. John L. Woods, pastor of Shiloh Baptist church in Tarrytown, N. Y.

The Mamaroneck branch opened its campaign drive with a program featuring well-known New York artists. A brief speech was made by Rev. C. F. A. Kirton.

Annual meeting of the New York state conference of NAACP branches was held May 26-27 at Newburgh. Headquarters of the meeting were in the AMEZ church, 109 Washington Ave.

OHIO: Under the auspices of the Piqua branch the first interracial meeting ever known in Piqua was held at the Greene Street Methodist church in April. Speakers were Franklin Puderbaugh, principal of the Wilder school; Mrs. E. D. Harris, who spoke on democracy on the home front; and Mayor Thomas Thoma.

Goal of the Massillon branch in the membership drive is five hundred members. Mrs. Benjamin Harper was chairman of the committee in charge of the campaign.

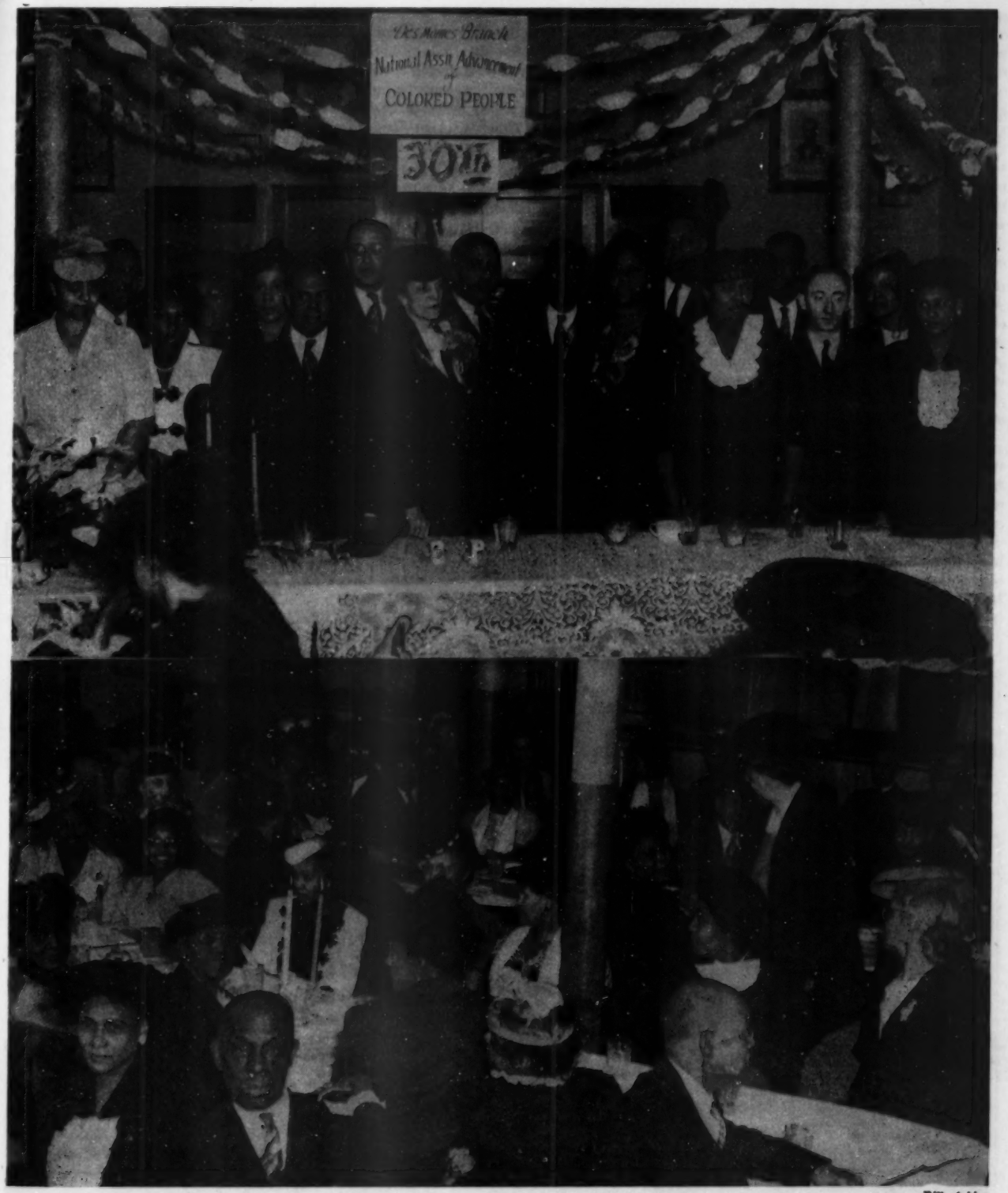
OKLAHOMA: In the small community of Weleetka the branch which was organized last December is making rapid progress and now reports eighty-five members.

PENNSYLVANIA: Goal of the Lancaster branch in its membership drive is nine hundred members.

The annual membership drive of the York branch began officially May 1.

In a statement issued by Theodore Spauld-

(*Continued on page* 178)



Bill Ashby

NAAC 30TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET, DES MOINES, IOWA—Top *picture shows the speakers table of the thirtieth anniversary banquet at the St. Paul AME church dining hall, Thursday night, January* 18. *First row, standing, left to right: Mrs. Irma Morrow, state counselor of youth; Miss Mildred Spencer, state youth president; A. P. Trotter, Des Moines branch president; Mrs. Georgie C. Morris, state president emeritus; Rev. A. R. Parks, state treasurer; S. Joe Brown, founder of the branch; Mrs. William Neal, branch secretary; Ike Smalls, first vice-president state conference; and Mrs. Sarah E. Jett, assistant branch secretary. Second row: Atty. James B. Morris, Mrs. Lida Page, Mrs. Rose B. Johnson, Atty. M. F. Fields, state president, Rev. C. L. McAllister, Rev. W. H. Wheeler, and Mrs. Cecil Lewis. Lower picture shows a portion of the* 150 *guests who attended the banquet.*

Branch News

(*Continued from page* 176)

ing, president, and Mrs. Carolyn D. Moore, executive secretary, the Philadelphia branch paid tribute to the late Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The branch has also urged favorable action on S.355, a bill designed to codify the approximately fifty seperate statutes on the law books of Pennsylvania for the control of venereal disease. The branch is also supporting S.410, a bill which provides for the licensing of foster homes for children; and H.1063, a bill providing for the establishment of a children's commission in the state of Pennsylvania to study the needs of children and to make recommendations to the 1947 session of the legislature for alleviating some of the problems of the child.

The branch is continuing its support in the fight for a state FEPC. So far Governor Edward Martin has flatly refused to assume leadership in the drive to force action on the FEPC bill introduced into the legislature by Homer S. Brown (D.—Pittsburgh). Governor Martin suggests that an FEPC be set up within the present State Labor Board, and insists that compromises be made before he will consider action.

Opening meeting of the 1945 membership drive (May 6) of the Philadelphia branch was addressed by Miss Ella Baker, director of branches, and Victor Rotnem, chief of the civil rights section, Department of Justice. Music was furnished by Miss Camilla Williams and John Thomas, soloists, and the interracial choir of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

Goal for the 1945 drive is 15,000 members and the campaign committee is headed by the veteran campaigner, Harold J. Pilgrim.

Walter White, secretary NAACP, and Aubrey Williams, former NYA administrator, were featured speakers at the third annual membership-drive meeting of the branch, May 16. The meeting was held in the St. Matthews church.

Some of the major accomplishments of the Philadelphia branch follow: Led the drive for full integration of all workers, regardless of race, creed, or color, in the Philadelphia Transportation system; sponsored first successful interracial press dinner in the city; cooperated with the Red Cross in developing a democratic program of public relations; conducted an educational program in labor relations; fought police brutality and pressed the prosecution of officers guilty of anti-semitism and anti-Negroism; supported the campaign for a state FEPC; presented six young Negro artists in public concerts; and distributed thousands of books, pamphlets, and other pieces of literature for the improving of racial and religious understanding.

RHODE ISLAND: At its April meeting the Newport branch heard reports from the delegates to the regional conference in Providence.

WEST VIRGINIA: T. G. Nutter, Charleston attorney, was the speaker at the April meeting of the Parkersburg branch.

ITALY: A one hundred percent company subscription to the NAACP was secured in an Italian sector recently by First Sgt. Willie M. Jackson, while his unit was attached to the Fifth Army. Veteran of nineteen months overseas, Sgt. Jackson proudly wears two battle participation stars, a Good Conduct Medal, two Service Stripes, and the Mediterranean Theatre Ribbon. Prior to entering the Army, Sgt. Jackson was employed at the Veterans' Hospital, Tuskegee, Alabama. Jackson is at present attached to the 651st Motor Ambulance Co.

Youth Council News

On Saturday night, April 7, over ninety-five young people, youth council members

Will Ellen Studios

SOME OFFICERS, CAMDEN, N. J., YOUTH COUNCIL—*Left to right, George Lawrence, president; Zeldia Sommerville, chairman entertainment committee; Lavenia Amos; Marguerite Lewis, treasurer; and Esther Hicks, secretary.*

and friends, celebrated the first anniversary of the New Haven, Conn. branch youth council at the home of Mrs. Margaret W. Baker, advisor to the youth council.

On Sunday, April 8, 1945, the New Haven Youth Council presented a luncheon. Present at the luncheon meeting, held in the Green and Gold Room of the YWCA cafeteria, were Mrs. Ruby Hurley, youth secretary, New York City; Kenneth Belle, James Bethea, Sydney Bridgeforth, Gerald Clinton, Thais June Clinton, Katherine Cruz, Jeffray Cuffee, Laurayne Farrar, Mary Forte, Mabel Fraser, June W. Grimes, Charlotte Hamilton, Dorothy Hill, Concuelo Morris, Thelma Rucker, Alyce Twyman, Malorrie Williams, Juanita Woolfolk, Bridgeport youth council; Marie Foster, Frank Mohamed, Greenwich youth council; Ann Hudson, Herman Smith, New Britain youth council; Mrs. Ealey, Norwalk youth council; Mrs. Esther Lacey, Waterbury youth council; and New Haven youth council members.

During the luncheon meeting problems of education and employment were discussed.

At the afternoon program at 3:30 tea was served. Youth day tags were sold, half of the proceeds going to the Freedom House Fund. Literature on FEPC, better social security, and educational bill of rights were distributed.

Book Reviews

POLITICS, JIVE, AND A PH. D.

Haiti Faces Tomorrow's Peace. **By Max L. Hudicourt. Translated from the French by Anita Dlyn Weinstein. New York: L'Association Democratique Haitienne, 1480 Madison Ave., 1945. 24 pp. 10¢.**

Haiti Our Neighbor (A Play in Two Acts and Twelve Scenes). **By Henri Ch. Rosemond. Brooklyn, N. Y.: The Haitian Publishing Co., 1096 Fulton St., 1944. Illustrated. 95 pp. $2.00.**

Dan Burley's Original Handbook of Harlem Jive. **By Dan Burley. New York: Published by the author, 140 Bradhurst Ave., Apt. 5G, 1944. 150 pp. $1.00.**

From a Plow to a Doctorate — So What? **By Alfred Turner. Hampton Institute, Virginia: Published by the author, 1945. Illustrated from photographs. 89 pp. 75¢.**

Both Messrs. Hudicourt and Rosemond are political exiles from the "tyranny" of Presisent Elie Lescot. Both writers bring serious charges against the present Haitian administration. Of the two, the charges of M. Hudicourt are more cogently presented and better argued. M. Rosemond charges too many windmills at once. What both tell, however, is not entirely news to students of the "black republic."

M. Hudicourt accuses Lescot of being a dictator-president, a self-aggrandizing politician, who rules by coercion and fraud. His administration, M. Hudicourt contends, has been marked by political ineptitude and trickery, by phony social security programs, increased economic exploitation, extortionate taxes, intensified race prejudice, and special favors to American capitalists.

President Lescot's term of office was to have expired in January, 1945, but through "political trickery" he got himself elected for another seven years. Turned financial genius he inaugurated a phony social security program for Haitians, deducting six percent from the salaries of all Haitian workers, yet he has made it impossible for these workers to know to what use these funds are being put. He is such a paternal president that "the government does not bother to maintain any records of the names of the individual workers or what they have paid the state." His pet project, the Society for the Development of Haitian-American Agriculture, went bankrupt to the tune of $17,000,000, thereby ruining hundreds of peasants who had been forced off their farms to make way for a so-called rubber-producing shrub. "The new plant produced nothing. The 200,000 acres of ravaged land are today being left wide open to erosion, and the 200,000 cultivators have been thrown into enforced idleness and want."

Eighty-five percent of Haitians are illiterate but instead of building schools—M. Hudicourt says "he has not built one single new school" during the four years he has been in power—he holds contests in Haitian creole tales. Perhaps it is true that the President has not built any new schools, but he has inaugurated a successful adult-education program and has had Haitian philologists in cooperation with an American work out a phonetic system which will enable the peasants to read and write the vernacular. Creole, the speech of the peasants, is a spoken and not a written tongue and one of the handicaps to mass education in Haiti has been the lack of an orthography.

"Freedom of the press is a thing unknown," says M. Hudicourt; and one is inclined to believe him when he reads the fulsome praise Haitian journals heap upon M. le Président and notes the fact that opposition journals have been banned, including M. Hudicourt's *La Nation.* Intransigent editors are either jailed without trial or exiled. And some "conspiring" citizens, asserts M. Hudicourt, have even been secretly shot.

It is a lugubrious picture M. Hudicourt paints of life in Haiti under President Lescot with his cacique rule, low living standards for the masses, bitter poverty for the peasants, puppet politicians, color and class divisions, which help the foreign exploiter, and a "cultural crusade" to hide the hideousness which lurks behind the cultivated facade of its mulatto elite. President Lescot has invited distinguished foreigners to lecture in Haiti, wined them and dined them, and showered them with honors in the hope that he will wring a favorable word from them for his rule. "The Haitian Chief of State hopes that these distinguished visitors will present to the world the kind of picture of Haiti which he would like it to have, not the picture of the shameful conditions as they really are."

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE NEGRO

209 Pages—Preparatory Volume—$2.75

Edited by **DR. W. E. B. DuBOIS *and* DR. GUY B. JOHNSON**

In 1932 the Encyclopedia of the Negro, Inc., was organized under the auspices of the Phelps-Stokes Fund. The purpose was to publish a definitive work in four volumes on the Negro race similar in scope and treatment to the Catholic and Jewish encyclopedias. Two well known authorities in the field, one a Negro and the other a white man, were appointed editors.

The encyclopedia is obviously a tremendous undertaking and the publication date is not in sight. However, much valuable material has been assembled which is *now published in a Preparatory Volume.*

The main feature of this work is an *alphabetical list of subjects* dealing with the Negro race and a list of source material for each subect. The introduction to the book is written by Anson Phelps Stokes, and the editors collaborate on the leading article. A section prepared by Dr. L. D. Reddick discusses *Library Sources for Negro Studies in the United States and Abroad* and there is a *Bibliography of Bibliographies* compiled by Professor Rayford Logan. Appendices contain the history of the Encyclopedia from its inception; the articles of incorporation, lists of the Directors, Advisory Board, and Editorial Staff, with photograph.

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Haiti's chronic ills of poverty, political instability, one-man rule, illiteracy, and color divisions may, of course, be easily explained through recourse to her history; but the discerning foreigner cannot ignore the fact that an aggravating factor is the ineptitude and the narrow selfishness of her rulers. At Versailles in 1919 it would surely have been to Haiti's advantage to have voted for the racial equality clause in the initial pact of the League of Nations, but M. Hudicourt says she did not.

Despite her "fascist trimmings" and her cacique president, Haiti finds herself in this war on the side of the United Nations, which means playing ball with the United States. M. Hudicourt thinks this shows hypocrisy on her part. Yet it reveals nothing more serious than the pardonable sin of political realism compounded of State Department pressure. M. Hudicourt must certainly know that Vargas, Guardia, Trujillo, and Morinigo are not exactly democrats; yet Brazil, Panama, Santo Domingo, and Paraguary all declared war on the Axis. Just recently we have had the farce of Farrell of Argentina coming in on our side at the last minute. Exposing Lescot's "dictatorship" in Haiti is not going to cause American interference in Haitian affairs on the side of Haitian "democrats" and "liberals." Ask the "liberals" in Paraguay, Brazil, and now Argentina.

This reviewer has no means of knowing the precise element of truth in M. Hudicourt's charges; but many of them seem overdrawn and others, as in the matter of schools and education, for example, are half-truths. Haiti has her faults and shortcomings, but M. Hudicourt paints them on too narrow a canvas and with too many shadows for the American reader to get a balanced picture. Many of his strictures seem to spring from personal animus against M. Lescot; others, from political frustration.

M. Rosemond's *Haiti Our Neighbor* sketchily covers some of the ground trod by M. Hudicourt, but his criticisms are rendered less effective by frequent vulgarity and sportiveness. He calls his critique a play but it is neither good theatre nor easy reading as drama. He ranges much farther afield, however, than the author of *Haiti Faces Tomorrow's Peace*. He covers life in Port-au-Prince, segments of peasant hill-life, a voodoo ceremony, and business as well as the inevitable politics. Parts are interesting, but the book is frequently marred by typographical errors and faulty English.

In *Harlem Jive* Dan Burley gives us a semi-humorous treatment of the perennial lingual phenomenon of slang, but it is the slang of what the whites often regard as an "exotic" quarter of New York, Harlem, and the dialect itself is perhaps no more familiar to the proverbially average Harlemite than it is to the average New Yorkers. Mr. Burley asks, "What is Jive?" and then proceeds to answer his own question.

"Jive," he says, "is language in motion. It supplies the answer to the hunger for the unusual, the exotic and the picturesque in speech. It is a medium of escape, a safety valve of people pressed against the wall for centuries, deprived of the advantages of complete social, economic, moral and intellectual freedom. It is an articulate protest of a people given half a loaf of bread and then dared to eat it; a people continually fooled and bewildered by the mirage of a better and fuller life. Jive is a defense mechanism."

His purpose in writing his book, the author says, is to furnish a guide and handbook for students of jive and those who would like to know what this double-talk is all about. His book is highly entertaining and amusing as well as instructive for the light it throws into the inner recesses of some Harlem minds. As in Hugo's simplified foreign-language grammars, Mr. Burley starts out by explaining the technique of jive, with illustrations; he lists verbs, nouns, adjectives, and idiomatic expressions in this vernacular; translates a few well-known English classics into the lingo; reports various types of dialogue of the jivers; and concludes with a "jiver's Bible," that is, a glossary.

Whittier's famous "Barefoot Boy," begins, as translated into jive:

> Blessings on Thee, Little Square,
> Barefoot cat with the unconked hair;
> With thy righteous pegtop pants,
> And thy solid hepcat's stance . . .

In jive the opening lines of the "Night Before Christmas" are:

> T'was the dim before Nicktide, and all through the Crib,
> You could hear Joe Hipp spieling that righteous ad lib.

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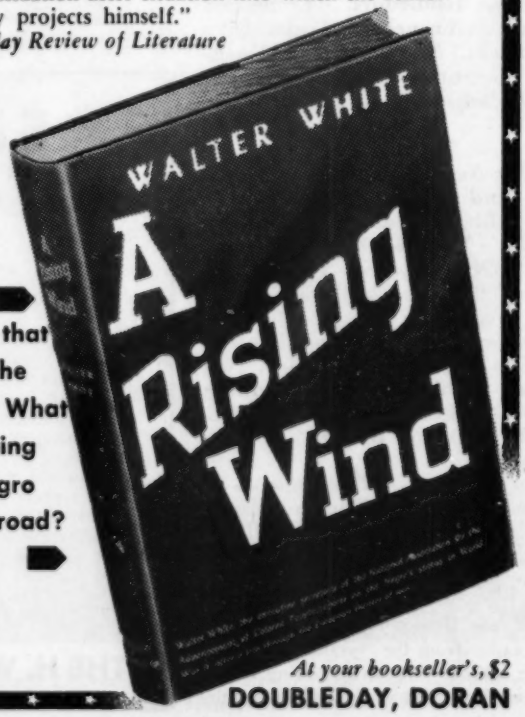

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And Hamlet's famous soliloquoy opens with:

To dig or not to dig, Jack, that's the question;
Whether 'tis the proper play to eat Onions
And wipe the eyes, while laying down one's deepest jive . . .

A few of the jive "backcaps" (conclusions or replies) listed by our author are:

Let's get racy
with Count Basie.

* * *

Well, blow my wig; dig that chick in the fancy rig!

* * *

This is your ace gumbeater
Hentracking like Gabriel Heather.

This reviewer does not know how much of this lingo is Harlemese and how much Burleyese, but many of his expressions and words, such as, "beam," "beef," "beat up your chops," "biddie," "ofay," etc., are common to Aframerica and a few may now be considered standard words in American slang. Mr. Burley's book makes diverting reading and will perhaps help toward a better understanding of the conk-haired, zoot-suited hepcats who "broom" (stroll) Harlem's streets.

A reading of Dr. Turner's *From a Plow to a Doctorate—So What?* immediately brought two things to mind: my friend J. A. Rogers' transliteration of the letters Ph.D. as "phenomenally dumb"; and underscoring of the right barrel of the author's double-barreled title—*so what?* If the net result of the "higher education" of Negroes is to turn out such academic prigs as the author of this pamphlet, then we had better do away with our graduate schools. The self-applause and self-complacency of this author would be inconceivable if they were not all set down here in cold print. "Folly consists not in committing folly, but in not hiding it when committed," wrote the wise old Jesuist Balthasar Gracian.

The public is interested in the details of a man's life only when he has some singular achievement to his credit. They want these details in order to follow the steps in his growth. But it is surely no singular achievement for a man to leave the plow and earn a doctoral degree. Perhaps this author should have stayed at the plow and followed the furrows behind the good mule "Mike" he pictures on page 17.

The main purpose for telling his life story, he says, is to present a cooperative plan, described in part two of his booklet, for raising a million dollars to furnish scholarships for deserving Negro boys and girls. But his naive suggestions and the sketchy outline of his plan have all the earmarks of the sort of "cooperation" which could easily degenerate into a racket.

JAMES W. IVY

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Letters to the Editor

Crisis Kept Soldiers Informed

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:

I sincerely appreciate the kindness of *The Crisis* magazine in extending my subscription until June, 1945. I have only recently returned to the United States from a tour of duty in the South Pacific, and during the many months I spent in the islands I received all of my copies of *The Crisis*. I enjoyed reading them and they kept me abreast of the Negro and the world today.

Thank you again for your kindness.

PVT. GEORGE B. WASHINGTON, JR.

Camp Lee, Virginia
April 21, 1945

Crisis Educates Filipinos

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:

We received copies of the *Crisis* with the pictures of the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions and the 332nd Fighter Groups and we were very proud of our "tanned Yanks." The Filipinos here did not know that Negroes were flying planes; manning heavy guns and carrying their share of the load in liberating countries that have been overrun by our tyrannical foes—the Japanese and the Germans. Until we showed them these pictures they were totally ignorant of such facts; but now their whole ideas have been changed somewhat, after seeing these pictures. They (the Filipinos) were especially pleased to see Negroes flying the P-51 Mustangs. We share as much as possible with them in order that they may join hands in the fight for justice of the minority groups, especially the Negro.

CPL. THOMAS P. GIDDINGS

Somewhere in the Philippines
April 20, 1945

Editor's Note:

THE CRISIS *has always contended that Negro soldiers have not been given proper credit for their exploits in combat. Even at this date the majority of white Americans know nothing of the deeds of Negroes in uniform, and they know nothing because the white press—along with the radio, films, and magazines—has given very little publicity to the exploits of Negro fighting men. In Washington the publicity bureau of both the War and Navy departments flood Negro newspapers and magazines with pictures of Negro troops, but through some quirk in their machinery they have not made these pictures of Negro soldiers available to the daily press. No wonder these Filipinos were astounded when they learned that Negroes have been "carrying their share of the load."*

Himes' Story Defeatist

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:

I am prompted to express my criticism of Chester B. Himes' story, "The Song Says, 'Keep on Smiling'," in the April, 1945, issue of *The Crisis*.

I see an opportunity for us Negroes, through fiction, to instill in the Caucasians the real aims, ideals, and characteristics of Negroes by constructive propaganda in our stories just as they in theirs have long written destructive propaganda in stories about us. So why shouldn't we "counter-propaganda" for tolerance in our published short stories?

Chester B. Himes wrote a story of defeatism all through his "The Songs Says, 'Keep on Smiling'." To wit: Jean said: "I'm not eligible." This is defeatism. Jean *was* eligible but *not* acceptable. To be not eligible is to be specifically inferior, the one to the other, on some basis of inequality. To be not acceptable is not because of inferiority, but in some instances because of the superiority of the one over the many. This must have been true in Jean's case: she was a talented singer in the shipyard orchestra, had an infectious smile, and was a morale-builder for her co-workers.

Again a note of defeatism and inferiority when she said, "My boy friend is not really in the service; he's a merchant-marine." Well, so what? What if they are under the Maritime Union? What if they are volunteers and not enlistees? Their casualties have been enormous and their combative feats heroic.

Also, why give a theme of lewd Negro men blowing their whiskey breaths in the faces of unescorted Negro women, plus a primitive enjoyment in a filthy habitat of debauchery? This is no more the rule than the opposite is the exception. Our faces have long been smeared with the mire, by the press, and we needn't put the make-up on any thicker. I fail to see that sordidness does a story good, unless to disprove a misguided opinion.

In the opening Jean remarked, "You'll go nuts thinking about your guys and going to bed with memories." Then at the end Himes had Jean in bed, defeated, waiting for twelve o'clock when all would become quiet and she could go to sleep. Did she go nuts as the solution for his story? If so, it's contradictory to the title.

MRS. GARFIELD MILLER

April 24, 1945
Venice, California

Editor's Note:

There are basically two kinds of fiction, manufactured fiction, the potboilers of the hack, and the compulsive fiction of the creative writer, the artist. Both write propaganda, but the difference between the productions of the two is profound. The first turns out an assembly-line product for the "fiction trade"; the second, his sincere interpretation of life as he sees it. THE CRISIS *tries to avoid the inventions of the first with the same earnestness that it seeks the creations of the second.*

BUY WAR BONDS

London Dateline

(*Continued from page* 169)

ments. As a result, assurances from spokesmen for four were given that their delegations would support such a statement of principle, a statement which failed of adoption in the 1919 Peace Conference. They are the Governments of Czecho-Slovakia, France, The Netherlands, and China. Jan Masaryk, Czech foreign minister, made the commitment for his government, and the Chinese spokesman said his government would probably sponsor the proposal. Coincidentally, the securing of these commitments preceded by two days the adoption of the Final Act of Chapultepec in which twenty American Republics reaffirmed

> . . . the principle recognized by all the American States, of equality of rights and opportunities for all men, regardless of race or religion; (and agreed) to recommend that governments of the American Republics, without jeopardizing the freedom of expression, whether oral or written, make every effort to prevent in their respective countries all activities which might provoke discrimination between individuals because of race or religion.

The newspaper which I represented was interested in other matters. These included the possible regional arrangement sanctioned by the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals as they relate to Ethiopia and the Republics of Haiti and Liberia; the attitude of the British Government on yielding concessions—political or otherwise—in any of its colonies or mandates to an international organization; the interest of English people in the Negro, referred to as "America's Greatest Problem" by one publication; the bombing of Southern England and the effect it has had on a section populated by Negroes; the work of the League of Colored Peoples; and finally the visit of the four American women war workers among whom is a Negro, Mrs. Maida S. Springer of New York City, representing the American Federation of Labor.

British Color Bar in Colonies

Mr. Moon inquired into phases of British reaction to the color problem within its own domains; the later movement and the influence of the Labor Party on colonial questions; and the development of a Pan-African movement which is being sponsored by the African delegates to the trade union conference.

Doubtless there are other angles which could have been explored had time permitted. What was accomplished in the short time, however, was sufficient to indicate that the sun does not rise and set in America insofar as the fortunes of colored peoples are concerned; that the British capital is by far a major and focal point for events so related; and that Paris too might well be a rich news source. Under the administration of Gen. Charles DeGaulle concrete steps are being taken to bring larger sections of the empire closer to an enjoyment of the rights and privileges of Metropolitan France, including the right of suffrage.

World Press News, the trade paper serving the newspaper industry, devoted nineteen columnar inches to an interview their representative had with me. Drawing the inference that the visit of Mr. Moon and myself indicates that the Negro Press "is now planning to play a role of increasing importance in the development of the post-war newspaper industry, the writer used this comment of mine:

"Foreign affairs is a virgin field for the Negro journalist and will help him to appreciate what is going on in the world as a whole. The British colonies, for instance, afford great scope for such a reporter in sponsoring an affinity of complete Negro interest. Once that aspect has been gotten across, it is but a short step to an affinity of complete interest in world-wide affairs."

Negro publishers, I am told, will hear in more specific terms, when they meet this year, what can and should be done in fulfillment of these ideas. Certainly, if Negro people are to have full breadth of understanding in regard to world affairs, it is going to be the responsibility of the Negro press to send their foreign correspondents abroad to get the news and information close to its source just as it has so ably done in sending war correspondents to far-flung battlefields for war news.

Negro Insurance Companies

Reporting on the activities of Negro insurance companies in the war financing program and in combating inflation, William Nickerson, Jr., president of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Co., told his policyholders in California, Illinois, and Texas that his company has purchased $444,462.20 in war bonds. Forty other companies, which form the National Negro Insurance Association, cooperated in this national anti-inflation drive in 1944.

LEGAL DIRECTORY

The following directory of some of the many colored lawyers in this country is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorneys outside their home towns. THE CRISIS maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights.

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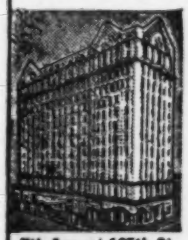

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